



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Neighborhood Likes Victorian Façade of New Lunny House

By Corrie M. Anders

A new residential-commercial development that once drew fierce opposition—the building would be too big and too ugly—is now attracting good reviews as it nears completion in downtown Noe Valley.

Shoppers and merchants along 24th Street got their first glimpse of the project last month after construction crews removed metal scaffolding and took down a dust-protection barrier that had shrouded the building while work was under way.

The unveiling revealed a four-story structure whose façade was elegantly dressed in Victoriana, with bay windows and balconies on the second and third floors, and painted in harmonious hues of maroon, gold, beige, and dark gray.

The building, located across from Bell Market at 3953 24th Street, contains six condominiums that will be sold to seniors, and two ground-floor commercial spaces. The development replaced the Lunny House, a century-old residence that had deteriorated into a neighborhood eyesore.

Local psychotherapist Susan Frankel said she was more than pleased with the architectural aesthetics of the new building and the way it blended in with other Victorian



Most observers say they are pleased with the looks of the new building that has replaced the 105-year-old Lunny House on 24th Street. The development, which will house six residences for seniors and two ground-floor commercial businesses, had to run the gauntlet of neighborhood groups before winning city approval.

Photo by Jack Tipple

Growing Hunger For More Cafes On 24th Street

By Liz Highleyman

The San Francisco Planning Department is in the process of drafting an amendment to the zoning code that could allow new restaurants to locate on Noe Valley's main commercial strip for the first time in nearly 20 years.

The proposed change would loosen a 1987 moratorium barring new full-service restaurants, fast-food outlets, coffee shops, and bars on 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond streets. Currently, the only way a new food operation can come in is if an existing eating establishment leaves.

The move was spurred in part by a survey of neighborhood residents conducted last spring by the Friends of Noe Valley. Results of the survey—and discussion at a subsequent community meeting last June—revealed that many residents wanted more high-quality local eateries offering a wider range of culinary choices. After that meeting, the Friends formed a subcommittee to look at ways to bring about such a change.

"It's been 20 years [since the moratorium was put in place], and the neighborhood has changed quite a bit," said subcommittee member Clark Moscrip, a 30-year Noe Valley resident. "This is simply a question of exploring whether the community would like to have the opportunity

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Reign of the Rat: A Medical Thriller from Our Local Expert on Leprosy

By Olivia Boler

While chatting with Noe Valley author Gil Smolin, whose debut novel, *Reign of the Rat*, hits the bookshelves May 1, one has to decide which is more interesting—his life or his fiction. Smolin, 69, is a doctor of medicine specializing in ophthalmology and infectious diseases, and his skills have taken him

all over the globe, including several trips to India to work with patients afflicted with leprosy.

It all started in 1985 when a friend asked Smolin, who is a professor and researcher at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, if he would travel to India to work with leprosy patients and lecture on the disease. "Leprosy," Smolin explains, "is a disease in

which the victim loses sensation because the nerves are no longer working. A person's tissues become unresponsive, and because they don't heal well, infections occur." These in turn can affect the eyes and lead to blindness. (According to the World Health Organization, almost half a million people worldwide suffer from leprosy, also called Hansen's Disease.)

After he arrived in India, Smolin was quite moved by the spirituality of the people he met, as well as by their tremendous need for modern, up-to-date medical systems. "If half the ophthalmologists in San Francisco left tomorrow, we would still have plenty of practicing ophthalmologists," he says. "But in some countries, like Gambia for example, there is only one ophthalmologist in the entire country."

Recognizing that he could have a much bigger impact in developing nations than here in resource-rich United States, Smolin decided to dedicate a part of his already busy schedule each year to raising awareness and traveling abroad. He eventually set up a microbiology laboratory at Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai, India, where researchers conduct studies on the affects of diet on cataract development, among other projects. He also helped found the DeLoris Lange Foundation, a public charity that funds trips taken by doctors who want to do mean-

ingful work in countries such as Nepal, Yemen, Ethiopia, and, of course, India. Additionally, he has helped the American Academy of Ophthalmology establish a registry for American and Canadian ophthalmologists to work overseas.

In 1995, Smolin was honored as the first recipient of the Francis I. Proctor Foundation Humanitarian Award. The Proctor Foundation is a research unit of UCSF, which conducts training and research in ocular diseases. Smolin also sees patients in his private practice in San Bruno.

As for writing a novel, Smolin approached that challenge as he has his profession—he jumped in with both feet. He isn't entirely a stranger to writing, having penned or edited eight textbooks, with titles such as *The Cornea*, *Ocular Immunology*, and *Infectious Diseases of the Eye*. He admits, however, that he doesn't really enjoy academic writing.

"Writing of science I found is very unpleasant, and it's hard work," he says. "All the rewards occur after the work is finished. With fiction, the actual process of writing is what I enjoy very much."

For the past 10 years, Smolin has "dabbled" in writing fiction. In recent years, he has cut down the amount of time he spends on his private practice and uni-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



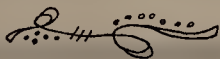
After a long career of treating the sick—both here and in Asia and Africa—Dr. Gil Smolin has published his first novel. His book party is May 21, 7 p.m., at Cover to Cover.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Three Generations on 24th. Noe Valley natives Theresa Maloney Hughes and baby Sara (3½ months) offer their pleasant dispositions for Grandma Cathey Maloney at Noe Courts park. While Cathey Maloney wasn't born here, she has lived on 24th Street for 60 years. Happy Mother's Day, everybody!

Photo by Pamela Gerard (a mom herself)



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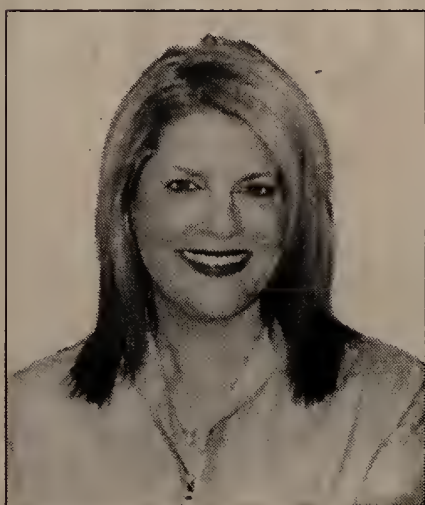
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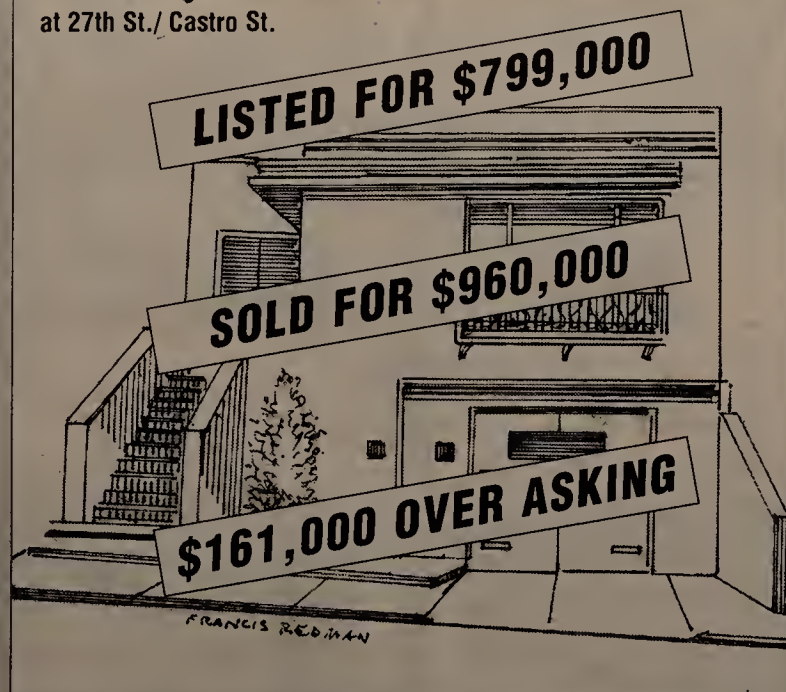
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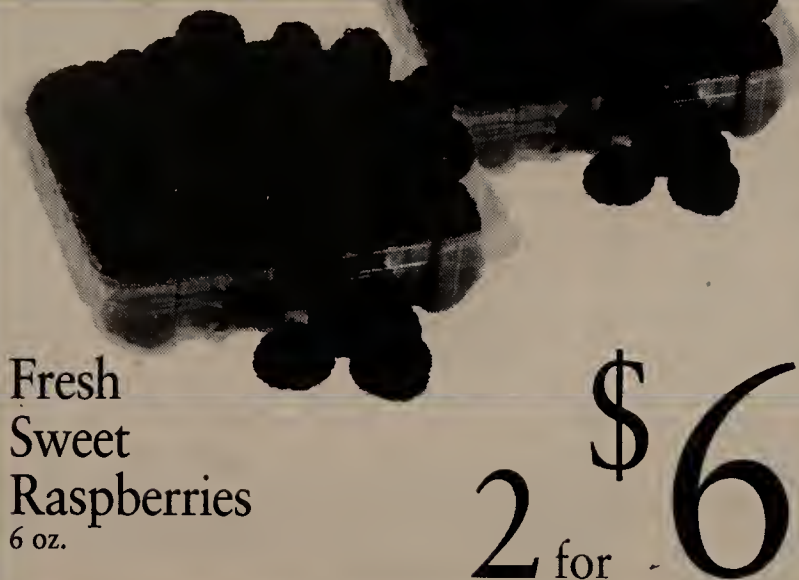
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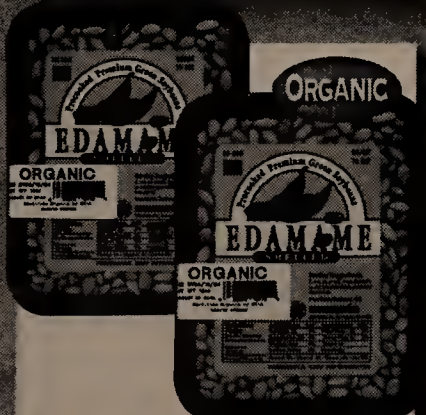
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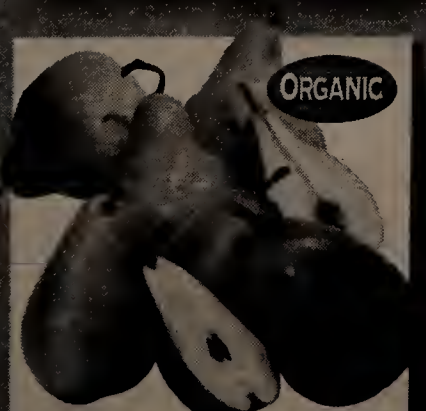
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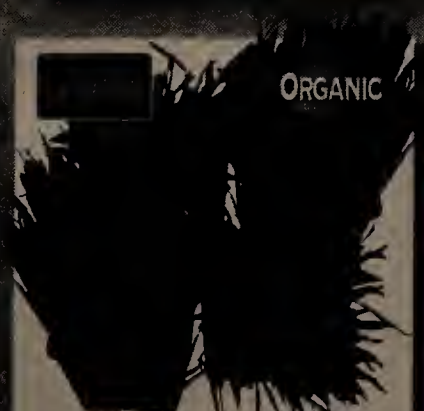
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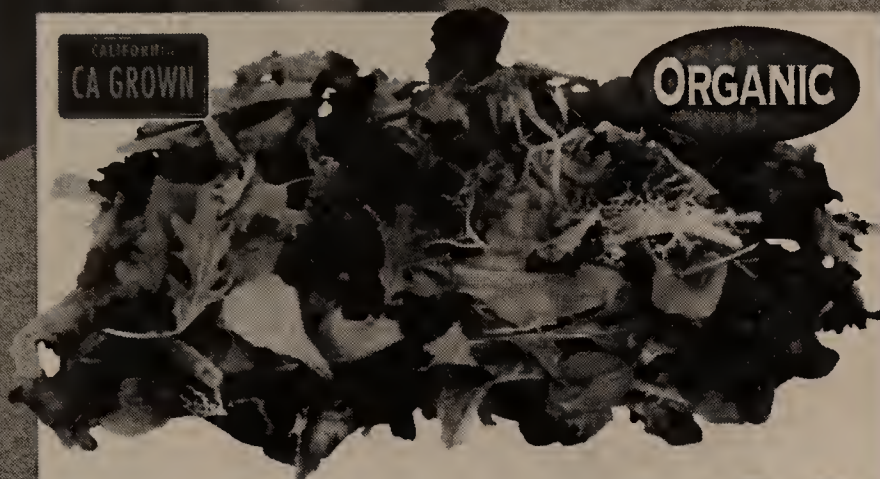
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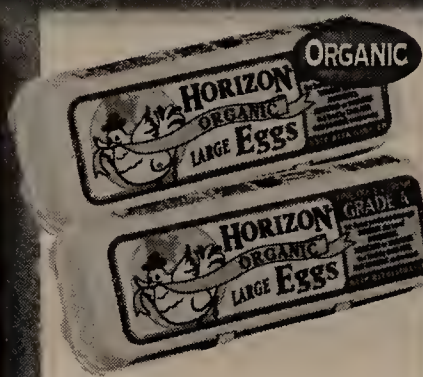
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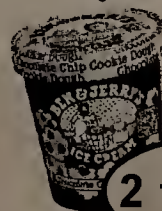
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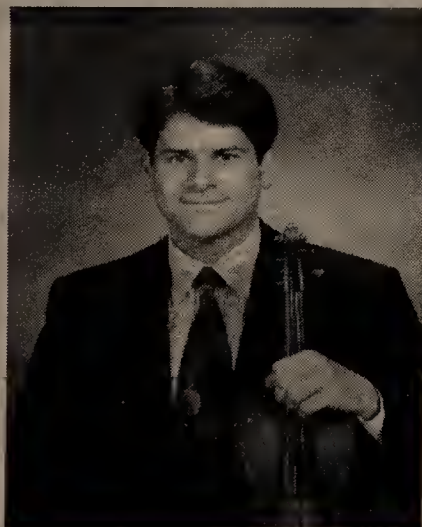
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LETTERS 37¢

Debate Over Cell Phones and Their Link to Health Damage

Editor:

Curious about your March letter from Nancy Evans regarding the use of cell phones, I went to the Internet sites that she cited. Here's what I read from a summary of an article which she used as a reference: "The main conclusion is that there is no hard evidence at present that the health of the public, in general, is being affected adversely by the use of mobile phone technologies, but uncertainties remain, and a continued precautionary approach to their use is recommended until the situation is further clarified."

Sir William Stewart, chairman of the the U.K.'s National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), repeats this: "What we can say is that there is as yet no hard evidence of adverse health effects on the general public, but because of the current uncertainties, we recommend a continued precautionary approach to the use of mobile phone technologies."

I agree. Don't use them when driving, for instance. And if you are worried about the health of your children from cell phone usage, then don't let them use them.

A second site quoted by Ms. Evans provides viewers with a study, "Mobile Phone Use and the Risk of Acoustic Neuroma," published in *Epidemiology* in November 2004. The study's conclusions state: "Our findings do not indicate an increased risk of acoustic neuroma related to short-term mobile phone use after a short latency period. However, our data suggest an increased risk of acoustic neuroma associated with mobile phone use of at least 10 years' duration."

In other words, after 10 years' use, you may be at somewhat greater risk of a tumor on the side of your head on which

you use your cell phone.

But note, a second paper was cited on the same site ("Cellular Telephone Use and Risk of Acoustic Neuroma," by Helle Collatz Christensen et al). It concluded the following: "The results of this prospective, population-based, nationwide study, which included a large number of long-term users of cellular telephones, do not support an association between cell phone use and risk of acoustic neuroma."

So pick your expert.

And what about this November 2004 "major research analysis" that Ms. Evans cites? According to them, the analysis shows that "radio-frequency radiation from cell phones and antennas damages DNA in human cells." I dug it up. They do write that four out of five laboratories found "...that ELF-EMF had genotoxic effects on primary cell cultures of human fibroblasts and on other cell lines."

But then they conclude under "Future Actions": "From a scientific point of view, it has to be stated very clearly that the REFLEX data do not prove a causal link between EMF exposure and any adverse health effects."

This is probably a good thing. EMF stands for electromagnetic field, ELF for extremely low frequency radiation. We're exposed to such every time we turn a key in a car, put bread in a toaster, or (oh ho!) type a letter to the editor on a computer. And in fact, perhaps the worst culprit, weighing in at an average of 170 W/m², is our Mr. Sun, who has been delivering a total energy input of about 2.7 x 10²⁴J, annually.

What do we get from a cell-phone or typical antenna? Again, from the NRPB (www.nrp.org): "Based on the technical data, the radiated power from antennas used with macrocellular base stations in

the UK appears to range from a few watts to a few tens of watts, with typical maximum powers around 80 W."

That's about the power of a light bulb. I am not trying to be disingenuous here. And I would be happy to see less cell use, not more. I am not a supporter of Cingular or its competitors, and I would much rather speak with Ms. Evans in person than on a phone. However, I believe that to tell readers that there has been a "steady stream of research reports" which "show a link between cell phone use and various health effects" is just plain wrong.

Owen Brown
23rd Street

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Editor:

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We have heard through Supervisor Bevan Duffy's office that some neighborhood residents don't wish to receive home delivery of our newspapers. We want to make sure that our Noe Valley readers who enjoy the *Examiner* and the *Independent* will continue to do so, while those who may not wish to receive the papers don't.

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Kudos to the Friends of Noe Valley, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club for their terrific job in fighting for the Victorian architectural aesthetic of the Lunny Building on 24th Street.

Change is inevitable. For those of us who are uncomfortable with many of the changes that have been visited upon Noe Valley since the dot-com era, this is a change that works with the neighborhood. This is a change that I can live with. Thank you.

Susan Frankel
Noe Valley

Coit Tower Murals Had to Stand Up to Their Own Patriot Act Editor:

I enjoyed the photo of one of the Coit Tower murals in Rosie Ruley Atkins' article about her Telegraph Hill adventure ["Telegraph Hill Thrills," by Rosie Ruley Atkins, April 2005]. Some details of the mural, not shown in the photo, reveal even more "clear hints of the artist's political views."

The Coit Tower mural of a public library scene was painted by Bernard B. Zakheim. The man reaching for a book in the painting is fellow artist John Langley Howard. The book he is reaching for is *Das Kapital*, by Karl Marx. He is crumpling a newspaper in his other hand. Another fellow artist, Ralph Stackpole, is reading a newspaper with the headline "Local Artists Protest Destruction of Rivera's Fresco," a reference to the destruction of Diego Rivera's mural in Rockefeller Center after Rivera refused to remove a portrait of Lenin, the leader of the 1917 Russian revolution. Another man in the library is reading a headline about the Nazi slaughter in Austria, years before the U.S. entered the war against fascism.

These details, and more, help to explain why the powers-that-be launched an all-out political attack on the Coit Tower murals as they were nearing completion in early 1934. As a result, the opening of the murals was delayed for months. This was the same year that saw the bitter maritime worker strike that led to the deaths of several workers on "Bloody Thursday," and then to San Francisco's great General Strike. The murals did not open until after the strike was settled, and only after a controversial slogan, which read

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"Workers of the World Unite," was removed from one of the murals.

For years afterward, the murals suffered from vandalism. In 1953, at the height of the McCarthy era, the *San Francisco Chronicle* asked, "Is this art or merely grotesque rebellion of starved souls against the existing order?"

In 1960, the blacklist still in force, the Coit Tower murals were closed, and stayed closed until 1977. Just a few years ago, the city tried to charge \$5 or \$6 per head to view the murals, but fortunately that experiment didn't last too long. In these days of endless war and growing neo-fascism, the Coit Tower murals are a treasure we should protect.

The story of the murals is told well in Masha Zakheim Jewett's book *Coit Tower, San Francisco: Its History and Art*.

Marc Norton
29th Street
nortonsf@ix.netcom.com

Kiwi's Great Adventure

Editor:

The Reeds of Chattanooga Street would like to thank the third grade at Edison Elementary School for finding and taking care of our pet bird Kiwi!

In February, our pet ring-neck parrot Kiwi was missing one day when we came home. Two days later, we had posted "Missing Parrot" printouts throughout the neighborhood. Although we had little hope at the time, within hours of having posted the signs, we received two calls, the second one from Ms. Taxin and the third grade at Edison School.

One of the students had found Kiwi in the playground. The whole class had taken him in, fed him and helped him, as he was shivering, scared, and hungry from his big two-day adventure. Much to our surprise, at the same time that we had made our missing bird poster, the third-graders had made their own. We now proudly have over a dozen beautiful drawings of Kiwi. As a reward, the class was invited to our house to see where Kiwi lived and have homemade cookies and milk. They made a book called "Kiwi's Great Adventure" with many wonderful imaginative stories of Kiwi's two days out in the world.

We would like to thank the whole grade

We found a bird.
He is green. He is about one foot long. He is also friendly.
We found him in Edison.
Choten Academy's pet, Ms. Taxin has him.
Her phone number is: 970-3336.



on behalf of our family and the neighborhood. Kiwi is at home and happy, surrounded by the drawings and photos of his new friends in the third grade. Thank you all so much.

The Reeds
Chattanooga Street

How Small Is a Small Business?

Editor:

While your "Bylines" essay on small businesses in Noe Valley—written by Carol Yenne of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association—focused on Mom and Pop businesses, the statistics in the box accompanying it referred to a much larger group of businesses. When you hear statistics about small businesses, what do you think the standard of size is? Twelve employees? Fewer than 50 employees? Five hundred thousand in annual sales?

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, the source of statistics in the sidebar to your story, the size standard is fewer than 500 employees for most manufacturing and mining industries, 100 employees for all wholesale trade industries, and for the category most Noe Valley businesses would fall into, retail and service industries, \$6 million in annual gross revenue (<http://www.sba.gov/size/indexfaq.html>).

Most of the local businesses your article described probably started out as really small businesses—microenterprises. Microenterprises are businesses that can be started with five or fewer employees and \$35,000 or less in capital. According to the California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity, the more than 2.5 million microenterprises in California account for 17.6 percent of all employment in our state, approximately the same percentage of employment as the 21.5 million microenterprises nationwide.

Kelly Saturno
Wisconsin Street

Seniors Need Those Seats

Editor:

A sign in the Muni reads: "Federal Law 49 CFR.37.167 Requires That These Seats Must Be Vacated for Seniors and Disabled Persons."

Currently, the law is ignored, with the seats occupied by 20-year-olds while 80-year-old seniors on crutches are forced to stand. What is Muni doing about it?

M. J. Groff
Topaz Way

Excuse Us, Mr. Roosevelt

Editor:

Great photo of auto climbing the hill on Duncan Street [in the *April Fool's* section of last month's issue]. However, you state in the caption that FDR was the 31st president. He was the 32nd. Hoover was the 31st. I like your paper talking about Noe Valley. I was born and raised in the Eureka Valley. I remember the Castro cable car, the #8 streetcar—those were the good old days of 7-cent fares and free transfers, 5-cent sugar doughnuts from the Eureka Bakery on Castro Street, 25 cents to see a double feature, newsreel, cartoon, and serial. Keep up the good work. Too bad the Eureka Valley doesn't have a paper to bring back memories, and current news.

Ronald Fitzgerald
Via e-mail

Editor's Note: There were a few other things wrong with that FDR photo, but those were intentional! Thank you, Ronald Fitzgerald, for setting us straight. Readers, if you missed the April Fool's pages in last month's issue, the photo and other dubious news features are stored in our archives at www.noevalleyvoice.com.

CORRECTION

In the April edition of the *Noe Valley Voice*, our Rumors Behind the News column listed the cross street for The Pickled Hutch antique shop as Duncan Street. In fact, the store is located at 1605 Church Street near 28th Street. That's the corner with Chuck's Sun Valley Dairy. We apologize for the error.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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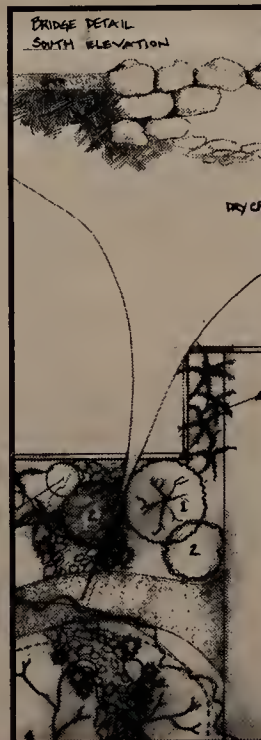
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Lunny House Turns Into a Swan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Edwardian properties in the area.

"It's a pretty building," marveled Frankel. "It looks like it's part of the neighborhood."

Frankel said she didn't take to the development at first. "I've had trouble with some of the tearing down of old buildings," she said. But "when I saw what [the developers] had done, I was certainly happier."

The Sidewalk Is Back

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association was among several groups with reservations about initial plans for the complex. The developers "did a really nice job," Association President Carol Yenne said about the finished product. "I haven't heard anything negative at all."

In fact, the development has become a welcome addition to a block of 24th Street—between Sanchez and Noe streets—that has endured more than its share of economic and political stress recently.

"Hallelujah," said Teresa Gay, who operates La Coterie Style Studio, a women's clothing store a few doors away from the new complex. "There was a party in here when the scaffolding came down [because] we've been in the 'construction zone' for almost a year now."

Nearby merchants said the scaffolding had created a dark and uncomfortable area where shoppers didn't want to walk, and "that hurt merchants" on the south side of the block. With the work platform gone, Gay said her block is "really starting to shape up."

Two other businesses near the condo

complex are having a positive impact as well, said Yenne. Noe Knit, a knitting supply store next door to the new building, opened in February after a full renovation of Colorcrane's old storefront. On the other side is Fresca, a Peruvian eatery that is expected to start operation in May, 16 months after the closing of Tien Fu Restaurant.

"The whole block is settling down," said Yenne. Only Fresh Organics/Real Food Company, which has been mired in employee and renovation disputes since August of 2003, remains empty.

Small Condos Designed for Seniors 62 and Up

Back at the old Lunny House site, some work remains to be done on the ground floor of the building. But the developers have started preliminary marketing to sell the small condos. They include a studio of approximately 400 square feet; a one-bedroom, one-bath unit with about 450 square feet; and four one-bedroom, two-bath units with 700 to 750 square feet.

Prices for the market-rate condos have not been finalized, said Eileen Long, one of the developers and a real estate agent with B.J. Droubi & Company on 24th Street.

Buyers must be seniors at least 62 years old—part of the deal the developers struck with city officials and the neighborhood. Long said buyers most likely would be homeowners who want to downsize after raising families, but "want to stay in the city and stay specifically in Noe Valley, which has all the amenities."

No leases have been signed for the commercial space, although there has been lots of interest, according to Long. "The building is exactly as we envisioned," she said. "We've gotten very positive feedback."

Yenne also notes that there is "a lot of demand" in Noe Valley for business

space, and the new building represents "one of the few things available" along the commercial shopping strip.

"A Classic Compromise"

Few would have predicted the positive glow that now bathes the development, which was designed by Drake Gardner of Zone Design Development of San Francisco.

"Early on, it was very frustrating," admitted Long, who teamed up with Jeremiah Cullinane and Denis Cullinane to purchase the Lunny House in 2002 for \$700,000. The modest, two-story home had been uninhabited for years after the deaths of Robert and Evelyn Lunny.

A number of preservationist-minded residents didn't want to see the home, built in 1900, torn down. But many more neighborhood activists, including members of Friends of Noe Valley, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, and Jersey Street Neighbors, complained about the new project's height and bulk, its modern industrial design, and the potential for increased traffic congestion. They argued that the structure, as originally conceived, would be out of place on 24th Street.

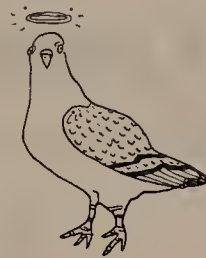
In the face of neighborhood opposition, the developers soon backed off the contemporary look and adopted a more familiar Victorian façade. They also re-

designed and set back the top floor of the building so that it would not appear so immense. Plans for a six-car garage were eliminated, and the apartment-size condos were restricted to seniors, to cut down on auto traffic.

"It was a classic compromise where no one was very, very happy," said Yenne.

When all was said and done, even Paul Kantus, president of the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, expressed begrudging admiration. "I still resent the size of the thing," said Kantus, pointing out that the rear view of the building rises a full four stories and "it doesn't look very nice."

But the building's front façade "is better than I expected," Kantus said, and the development fits in well with the streetscape. "I think it's a positive thing for the block." □





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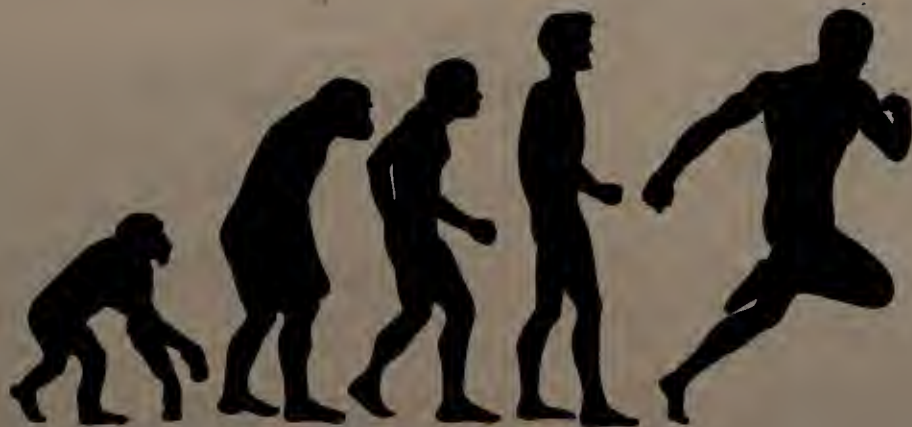
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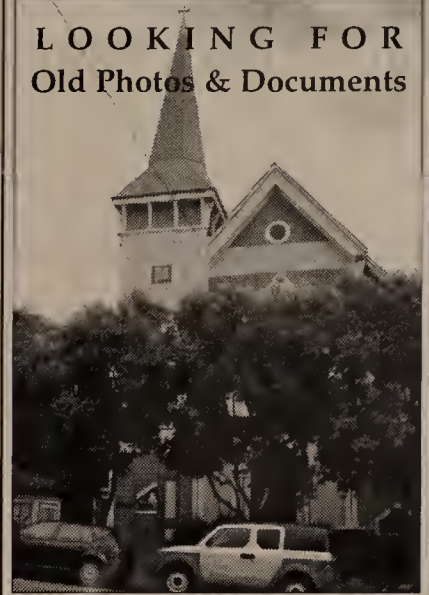
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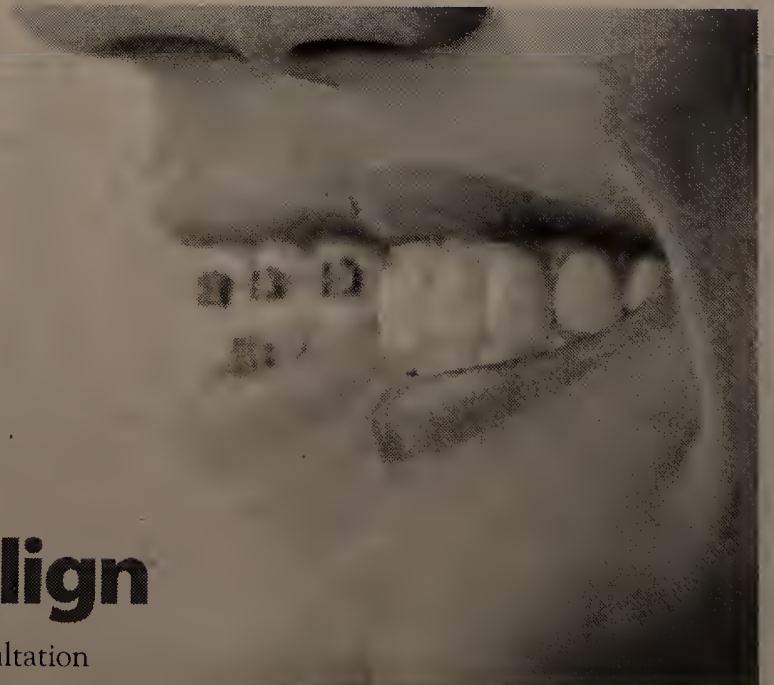
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Moratorium on New Restaurants on 24th Could Be Eased

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to bring in new restaurants. The community will have a chance to discuss it."

In the late 1980s, some residents feared Noe Valley was in danger of losing basic services and turning into another Union Street—a concern that has not entirely disappeared. Former Friends president Jean Amos told the *Noe Valley Voice* last year that a more upscale 24th Street could drive out families and reduce the neighborhood's economic diversity. East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club President Paul Kantus expressed concern that with more restaurants, people from all over the city would come here to eat, making the parking situation even worse.

But the neighborhood has seen a lot of changes in the past two decades, including the dot-com boom and bust and an influx of younger, busier, more affluent residents who hanker for expanded local dining options. More recently, the closure of the Real Food Company grocery store (now in its 21st month), and the subsequent turnover of several businesses, has left many residents and merchants more worried about too little—rather than too much—vitality on 24th Street.

The restaurant moratorium "certainly does limit the choices neighborhood residents have for eating places within walking distance of their homes," said Elizabeth Willey of Alvarado Street. "I expect a lot of them are driving to other areas to eat, and if you're going to do that, you may as well live in the suburbs."

Looking for Three Good Eateries

City Planner Dan Sider says his department has been working with Supervisor Bevan Dufty's office and neighborhood groups (including the Friends and the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association) for several months, and completed a draft of the amended code language in March. "We've gotten a lot of comments that have been helpful in figuring out where we're heading," he told the *Voice*.

The proposed change would allow

three new full-service restaurants or cafes to locate on 24th Street within the next three years—although both the exact number of eateries and the time frame remain flexible. (At present, the six-block stretch has 31 restaurants, bars, and coffee shops; see sidebar.) Food establishments would not be allowed to take over a space formerly occupied by a "basic neighborhood service," but there is some disagreement about what falls into that category.

Liquor licenses are another unresolved issue. As it stands now, only one 24th Street restaurant (Fresca, formerly Tien Fu) has a full liquor license, though several others are permitted to serve beer and wine. Some residents worry that once a restaurant has a liquor license—which is attached to the property, not a specific owner—it could be replaced by a bar in the future.

Looking over the draft last month, Merchants Association President Carol Yenne said she was "thrilled and excited" about the proposed change. "Most business owners don't like zoning restrictions that create an artificial environment," she said. "There's been concern [from some residents] that certain services would be replaced, but needs change with the times. Some people might find a restaurant more essential than a hardware store. The market takes care of establishing the right mix."

"Most of the retail spaces on 24th Street are small," Yenne continued. "Anyone who wanted to open a restaurant would have to look high and low to find a space. There's not going to be a big flood."

New Food Won't Come Fast

Loosening of the restaurant moratorium is by no means a done deal.

Dufty—who has long supported such a change—will present the draft amendment to the Board of Supervisors. It will then go to the Planning Commission, which has 90 days to approve or deny it. If approved, the amendment will go before the supervisors' Land Use Committee. Both the Planning Commission and the Land Use Committee will hold public hearings. If the proposal runs into opposition at this stage, it must go before the full Board of Supervisors, which will conduct additional hearings and must

vote twice in favor of the measure before sending it on to Mayor Gavin Newsom for his signature.

Cafes Should Be Complementary

An informal *Voice* survey of about a dozen Noe Valley residents suggests that allowing a few more restaurants is a popular idea. None flat-out opposed the plan, although they differed in what, exactly, they wanted.

"I agree it's good to have some limits," said Bruce Ghent, who moved to the neighborhood three months ago. "I don't see a problem [with the amendment], as long as there are provisions not to infringe on living space and [new eateries] are accessible to people of different income levels."

"I'd especially like to see more quiet places where one can loiter and have a conversation or work for a few hours," said Willey, a writer. "Something like Samovar [at 18th and Sanchez] would be wonderful. A bakery-cafe like Tartine or Citizen Cake would be a great addition."

Megan Smith, shopping with her child at Bell Market, said she hopes for "more restaurants like Firefly and Incanto."

Mark, a 25-year Noe Valley resident who declined to give his last name, thought "good ethnic restaurants, maybe a nice bistro" sounded appealing, but he was more adamant about what he doesn't want: "No chains."

"I'd like more ethnic variety, more vegetarian options, and eateries complementary to the ones we have now," said Chattanooga Street resident Jan Brittenson. "A little more choice would be nice."

According to Sider, the soonest any change is likely to take effect would be this coming fall—assuming, that is, that a general consensus can be reached in the early stages of the process. □

How Many Cafés and Bars Do We Have Already?

In late April, the *Voice* counted heads and came up with 31 restaurants, bars, and coffee shops along the six blocks that comprise the 24th Street – Noe Valley Neighborhood Commercial District.

Choices on 24th Street

Here are the places you can stop for a bite or a beer as you stroll up 24th Street from Chattanooga to Diamond:

Cybelle's—pizza/Italian
Noe's Bar—bar
Happy Donuts—pastries, sandwiches
The Dubliner—bar
24th Street Cafe—California/Middle-Eastern
Matsuya—sushi
Martha and Brothers—coffee shop
Holey Bagel—bagels, sandwiches
Haystack—pizza/Italian
Noe Valley Restaurant—pizza/Italian
Savor—California
Casa Mexicana—Mexican
Noe Bagel—bagels, sandwiches
Fresca—Peruvian (*coming soon*)
Tully's—coffee shop
Herb's Fine Foods—American diner
Starbucks—coffee shop
Pasta Pomodoro—Italian
Noe Valley Deli—American/Middle-Eastern deli
Tung Sing—Chinese
Bliss Bar—bar
Mi Lindo Yucatan—Yucatecan Mexican
Valley Tavern—bar
Le Zinc—French
Isabella's—desserts, sandwiches
Tom's Peasant Pies—pies
Lupa—Italian
Miss Millie's—"Creative American"
Barney's—burgers
Swatdee—Thai
Diamond Corner Café—salads, sandwiches

And There's More on Castro...

If you're still hungry, two additional restaurants and one bar are located in the 1300 block of Castro Street between 24th and Jersey:

Hahn's Hibachi—Korean
The Peaks—bar
Hamano Sushi—Japanese

(Sorry, we were too full to walk down Church Street.)

Got news?

Are you starting a hiking club? Is your shop or cafe opening soon? Your band playing at a local bar? Has your book found a publisher? Spread the word.

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Eye Doctor Sets His Sights on a Medical Thriller

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

versity work, and has looked for ways to keep mentally active. He tried piano lessons, but fiction writing has proven to be a better fit. He has taken workshop classes, read a couple dozen books on the craft, and attended several writers conferences.

It took him about five years to write *Reign of the Rat*, which is actually the second novel he has completed, having put the first one in a drawer. Although he has a literary agent, he found his publisher, Ad Lib Books of Raymore, Mo., on his own.

Smolin describes the protagonist of the novel, Michael Cohen, M.D., as a “glorified version of myself.” Michael and his former lover, Dr. Alice Morgan-Wright, are tracking a deadly illness that has its origins in Nepal and threatens to spread globally. They discover that it’s a drug-resistant form of leprosy, and they set off to find a cure.

Naturally for this book, Smolin relied upon his own knowledge and experiences in treating leprosy. He also explored the history of the disease, the earliest records of which date back to the 16th century B.C. Notable among those who have cared for leprosy sufferers—often treated as outcasts—were the member of the Order of St. Lazarus, a religious order established by Catholic monks in the 11th century.

In Smolin’s novel, an amulet of St. Lazarus, a metal crucifix, is a key element in the plot, and adds a “bit of magic” to the story. There is also, as there should be

in any successful thriller, an enemy of the doctors, who is trying to stop them from reaching their goal.

“I picked this particular subject for my novel because I wanted to educate as well as entertain,” Smolin says. “I wanted to describe the world of rural Asia in general, and the plight of the people with leprosy in specific.”

A native of Brooklyn and Queens, N.Y., Smolin came to San Francisco in 1966 for his fellowship at UCSF, and fell in love with the city. He recalls going to the Haight for the human be-ins and free concerts by bands such as Jefferson Airplane.

He lived in Pacific Heights until 1991, when the aftermath of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake left his commute to the university and his practice in San Bruno a mess. That year, he and his wife Julia, a violinist, moved to their current home on 21st Street. Together, they are raising a daughter, Erica, 14.

“I love the friendly, family-oriented aspect of Noe Valley,” Smolin says. “The weather, views, and convenience to my work are great too, but secondary.”

If you want to meet both the author and the doctor, here is your chance. Smolin will sign his new book, *Reign of the Rat*, at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Castro near 24th Street on Saturday, May 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. □



From *Reign of the Rat* by Gil Smolin, M.D.

SEPTEMBER 2004
BAGLUN, NEPAL

He had no time to rest, but Bhai, drenched by the incessant rain, stood barefoot in the muddy and infested water, gazing across the endless terraced fields of rice until they disappeared into the mist. Closing his eyes, he lifted his chin and allowed the prickling drops to massage the muscles of his young face. For the past five weeks, the warm rain of the summer monsoon had veiled the punishing sun. When he opened his eyes it was all still there; the vivid green terai of the Nepalese foothills, the only place he had ever known.

The rice stalks had to be picked; his family’s survival depended on it. His parents, sister, and older brother all had to work in the fields in order to make a living. In the best of seasons, they would reap barely enough food to survive the winter. Buddha and Shiva had not been kind the previous spring.

Bhai sighed. He would never be able to leave the village, like the schoolmaster’s son, to go to Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. Even the village leader’s daughter had gone off to school. A girl. And Bhai’s grades were better than either of theirs. He pushed the bothersome thoughts out of his mind. The rice had to be picked. Ignoring the throbbing ache in his lower back that radiated down his leg, Bhai bent over and began pulling the stalks.

A sudden knifelike pain sheared through him, and gasping, he fell to his knees, the muddy water splattering his face. The long monsoon and harvest season were destroying his body as never before. Would both body and mind rot in the never-ending fieldwork?

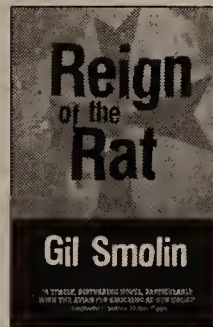
Despite his youth, the aching grew steadily worse and he couldn’t imagine how he would continue this work for many more years. He would have to speak to his father about his back. Maybe he could get permission to see the Vedic medicine man when the traveling healer returned to Baglun. Villagers said the practitioner had cured the old beggar woman of her deafness.

Bhai remained on his knees, the only comfortable position left to him and continued picking the stalks. Crawling along, he peered over at the adjoining row and saw his father grimace, then look away. Illness could not and would not be tolerated during the harvest season.

Pulling out a handful of rice, Bhai noticed a deep cut on his middle finger. He turned his hand to examine the cut more closely and was surprised to see that two of his fingernails were gone. He patted the muddy ground, looking for them, and then realized the futility of his search. Many years ago he had heard a tale from his grandfather about rotting hands, when bad times tormented the valley, but he couldn’t remember what it meant.

Refusing to surrender to despair, Bhai reached for more rice stalks. He would try to keep his hands as dry as possible when he was out of the fields and wait for the farm work to end with the arrival of the winter cold.

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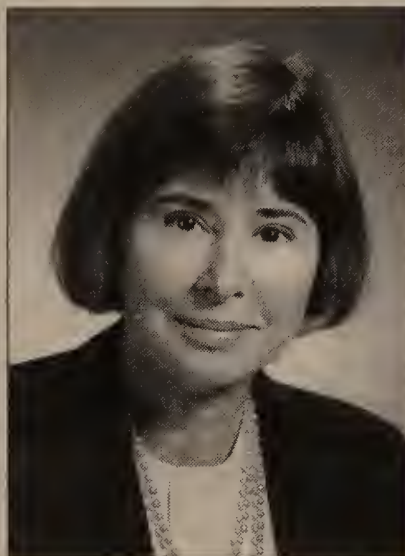
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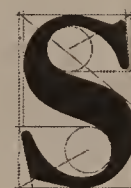
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The Cost of Living in Noe

“For Sale” Signs Spring Up

By Corrie M. Anders

A hint of spring and a little warm weather is all that it took to get many Noe Valley homeowners back in the selling mood. The increase in the number of “For Sale” signs staked in front yards set off a buying spree.

In March, buyers picked up keys for 16 single-family homes, the highest monthly total of the year. Three of the homes sold for more than \$2 million each, according to Zephyr Real Estate, which provides monthly sales data to the *Voice*.

“I think 16 closings shows hope for buyers,” said Randall Kostick, sales manager for Zephyr’s 24th Street office. “The more houses that come on the market, the less competition there is for each house.”

Kostick noted that single-family buyers in March paid an average of 8 percent over the asking price. But home shoppers during the winter months—when there was a scarcity of properties for sale—paid an astonishing 24 percent extra for homes

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
March 2005	16	\$831,000	\$2,662,000	\$1,569,000	26	108%
Feb. 2005	5	\$880,000	\$1,355,000	\$1,103,300	15	124%
March 2004	12	\$828,000	\$1,464,000	\$1,120,667	23	108%
Condominiums						
March 2005	7	\$695,000	\$1,351,500	\$947,786	21	116%
Feb. 2005	3	\$575,000	\$931,000	\$785,333	20	120%
March 2004	9	\$323,000	\$997,000	\$679,778	24	111%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
March 2005	8	\$1,175,000	\$2,099,000	\$1,444,250	35	108%
Feb. 2005	2	\$1,305,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,402,500	23	104%
March 2004	5	\$810,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,136,200	31	101%
5+-unit buildings						
March 2005	1	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000	24	99%
Feb. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2004	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the data. NVV 5/05

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents April 2005	Average Rent April 2005	Average Rent March 2005
Studio	4	\$900 – \$1,100	\$1,030 / mo.	\$1,200 / mo.
1-bedroom	9	\$995 – \$1,850	\$1,472 / mo.	\$1,616 / mo.
2-bedroom	6	\$1,500 – \$2,195	\$1,874 / mo.	\$1,946 / mo.
3-bedroom	1	N/A	\$2,750 / mo.	\$2,871 / mo.
4-bedroom	1	N/A	\$5,000 / mo.	\$5,600 / mo.

** This survey was based on a sample of 21 Noe Valley listings appearing on www.craigslist.com April 18–19, 2005. The previous sample of 29 was collected March 18–19. NVV 5/05

that closed escrow in February.

Newly-constructed, 4,400-square-foot residences in the 500 block of Valley Street were the two most expensive properties sold in March. Buyers paid just under \$2.7 million for a four-bedroom, 4½-bath home, while the other new home on the block cost nearly \$2.3 million and featured four bedrooms and 5½ bathrooms.

Those luxury homes pushed the March average price of a single-family home in Noe Valley to nearly \$1.6 million. Normally, the average falls in the \$1.1 million range.

Sales of condominiums and flats also rose in March, thanks to increased inventories. Seven condos closed escrow during the month, four more than were sold in February. Buyers paid 16 percent above the seller’s original price and helped push the average cost of a condo close to the \$1 million mark.

The most expensive condo—selling for \$1.3 million—was a three-bedroom, two-bath unit with almost 2,000 square feet, in the 500 block of 27th Street.

The seemingly unbridled costs for detached homes and condos in Noe Valley sent many buyers searching for less expensive alternatives.

Eight buildings with two to four units each changed hands during March, six more than in February. Apartment flats are a favorite of tenancies-in-common (TIC) buyers, who split the costs and live in separate units. □



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—Tanya Bednarski, Greg, Ryan, Cooper, and Miranda Johnson

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Who to Call at City Hall

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Graffiti		415-241-WASH
Illegal Dumping (litter, dog poop)		415-28-CLEAN (282-5326)
Potholes	potholes@ci.sf.ca.us	415-695-2100 (695-2020 after 5 p.m.)
Sewer Odor	24-Hour Odor Hotline	415-695-2096
Tree Hazards and Trimming	Bureau of Street Environmental Services	
	www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfdpw/trees	415-695-2017
Lost or Injured Animals	Animal Care and Control	415-554-9405
Traffic Signals Out		415-550-2736
Missing or Damaged Street Signs		415-554-9780
Abandoned Vehicles		415-553-9817
Aggressive Panhandling		415-553-0123
Illegal Parking	DPT Dispatch	415-553-1200
Someone Passed Out on the Street	Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP)	415-431-7400
Utility Undergrounding	Department of Public Works	
	undergrounding@sfgov.org	415-554-4860
Whistleblower Hotline		415-554-2489

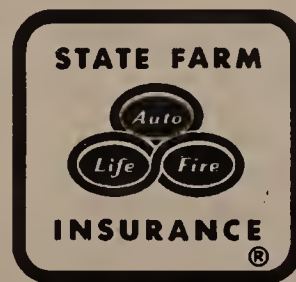
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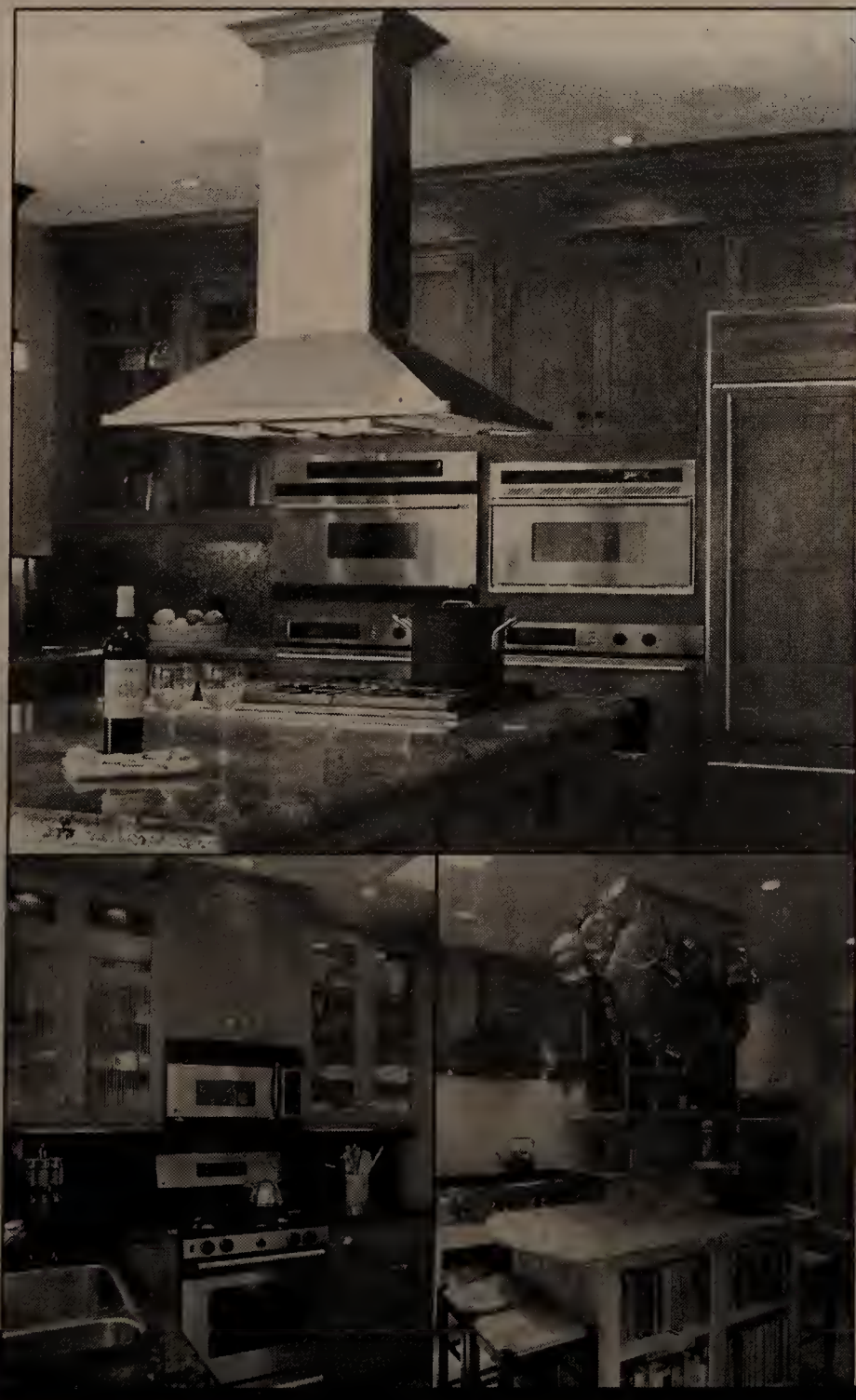
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a roundup of crimes and other police incidents in Noe Valley. "Noe Valley" is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The following crime data were culled from March 2005 incident information and reports provided by officers at Mission Police Station.

March Crime Log

Burglary of Flat, Unlawful Entry: Reported 2:10 p.m., Tuesday, March 1; 1000 block of Dolores Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, March 2; 3900 block of 22nd Street

Burglary of Residence, Unlawful Entry: Reported 8 a.m., Friday, March 4; 100 block of Chattanooga Street

Committing Public Nuisance: Reported 4:19 a.m., Sunday, March 7; 4300 block of 24th Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Unlawful Entry: Reported 7:30 a.m., Sunday, March 7; 600 block of Alvarado Street

Malicious Mischief and Vandalism: Reported 3 p.m., Saturday, March 5; 900 block of Elizabeth Street

Petty Theft of Property: Reported 8 a.m., Friday, March 4; 1000 block of Church Street

Malicious Mischief and Vandalism: Reported 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 9; 800 block of Alvarado Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 12:30 a.m., Friday, March 11; 300 block of Fair Oaks Street

Burglary of Residence Under Construction: Reported 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 1; 1200 block of Dolores Street

Robbery, Armed with Dangerous Weapon: Reported 4:09 p.m., Saturday, March 12; Church and Liberty streets (because the suspects and victims in this case are all juveniles, no further information was available).

Battery and Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 9:39

Patron Beaten at 24th Street Bar

A 45-year-old Chattanooga Street man was taken away in an ambulance in the early hours of Saturday, March 26, after an incident at a tavern located in the 4000 block of 24th Street. When police arrived on the scene just after midnight, the victim was lying on the floor of the bar bleeding from his nose and mouth. He sustained a broken nose and cuts to his face.

Earlier, the victim and his companion had gone to another bar for a drink, but the manager and a female bartender had asked them to leave. The victim told police he had been involved in an altercation in that bar the year before, but on this night he left without incident. He and his friend moved on to a second bar a few doors up the street.

According to the police report, the same woman bartender who had asked the men to leave the first bar then entered the second. After the victim's companion got up to use the restroom, a white male approached the victim and allegedly initiated a fight. The victim's companion told police the attacker struck the victim in his face with a closed fist and continued to swing and kick violently after the victim was knocked to the ground. The victim lost consciousness when he was punched and was not able to tell police much more about the incident.

The attacker fled on foot on 24th Street, but officers failed to locate him after a search of the area. Witnesses described the attacker as wearing a white shirt and blue jeans. His short hair was cut in a "Mohawk" style.

Anyone who has information about the case should contact the SFPD's General Works Department at 553-1141.

Egg-regious Attack

A Daly City man was driving his Subaru on 24th Street between Noe and Castro streets the evening of Saturday, March 12, when an Acura sedan pulled alongside his car. An occupant of the Acura threw several eggs at the driver, splattering his upholstery and the outside of his car. The victim told police he couldn't identify his attacker.

—Erin O'Briant

p.m., Saturday, March 12; 3900 block of 24th Street (see above)

Lost or Stolen License Plate: Reported noon, Saturday, March 12; 3500 block of 23rd Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism of Vehicles: Reported 12:25 a.m., Tuesday, March 15; 300 block of Elizabeth Street

Stolen Automobile: Reported 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 15; 900 block of Elizabeth Street

Burglary of Residence, Forcible Entry: Reported 4 p.m., Monday, March 7; 900 block of Elizabeth Street

Sexual Battery: Reported 3 p.m., Thursday, March 17; 3600 block of 21st Street [due to the nature of this crime, no further information was available]

Grand Theft of Property: Reported 9 p.m., Wednesday, March 9; first block of Homestead Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 12:01 a.m., Saturday, March 12; 800 block of Sanchez Street

Malicious Mischief, Graffiti: Reported 3:30 p.m., Monday, March 21; 3800 block of 22nd Street

Malicious Mischief, Vandalism: Reported 9:05 p.m., Wednesday, March 23; 200 block of Jersey Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 10 p.m., Thursday, March 17; 3900 block of 26th Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 1 a.m., Tuesday, March 22; 700 block of Elizabeth Street

Fraudulent Credit Application: Reported 4 p.m., Sunday, March 27; 4000 block of 24th Street

Stolen Automobile: Reported 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 22; Elizabeth and Sanchez streets

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 11:45 p.m., Thursday, March 24; Cesar Chavez and Dolores streets

Aggravated Assault with Bodily Force: Reported 12:25 a.m., Saturday, March 26; 4000 block of 24th Street

Burglary, Residence Under Construction, Forcible Entry: Reported 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 16; First block of Elizabeth Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 12:05 a.m., Monday, March 28; 700 block of Diamond Street

Grand Theft from Locked Auto: Reported 12:15 a.m., Monday, March 28; Cesar Chavez and Church streets

Stolen Automobile: Reported 9:10 p.m., Tuesday, March 29; 3700 block of 25th Street

Burglary of Apartment House, Forcible Entry: Reported 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 31; 4000 block of 24th Street

The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Andrew MacIhrath for providing incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Voice writer Erin O'Briant.

HOW TO CONTACT THE SFPD

Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly in both the Mission and Ingleside police districts. The next Ingleside meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. The next Mission meeting will be Tuesday, May 31, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live or work north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the Mission Police District) may report recurring problems by phoning Mission Station at 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's nontraceable hotline at 552-4558.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984. To sign up for the station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Captain Paul Chignell at Paul_Chignell@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency situation in San Francisco, call 553-0123.

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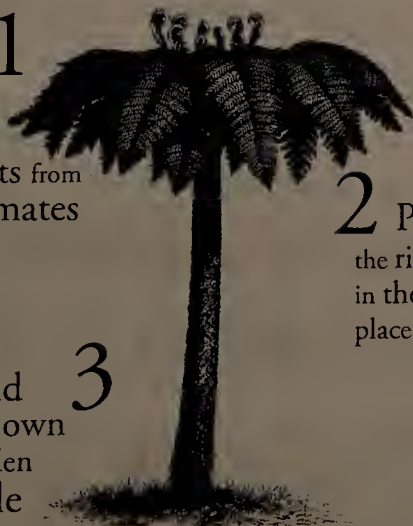
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Going Blind Brings Deeper Vision for Noe Valley Author

By Suzanne Herel

Noe Valley resident Susan Krieger began her study of “things no longer there” by searching for an old summer camp back East, where she and her sister had spent their teenage school breaks.

Or at least she remembered a lake, and a pier, and a white farmhouse where the two women who ran the camp had lived. But when Krieger and her sister’s family piled into a station wagon one day in 1994 to revisit their past, the camp was gone, replaced by tidy new homes.

Eleven years later, Krieger has published a memoir, *Things No Longer There*, which was started that day by an investigation of a geographic landscape that didn’t jibe with her inner memories.

But the book soon would evolve into a study of the complexities of vision—that which we see with our hearts as well as our eyes—after the author was diagnosed in 1996 with a rare eye disease and began to lose her sight. She now is legally blind.

“I hope people will come away with valuing more their inner vision, their own and others’, that creates their inner world,” says Krieger, a New York native who moved to the Bay Area in 1967 to study city planning at U.C. Berkeley.

She now teaches feminist studies at Stanford University, as does her partner, Estelle Freedman—also an author—with whom she has lived in a house on Day Street since 1983. They share their home with three cats and two dogs, including Krieger’s guide dog Teela, a golden/Labrador retriever mix.

Krieger has written several previous books on social topics, among them *The Family Silver: Essays on Relationships Among Women* (1996); *Social Science and the Self: Personal Essays on an Art Form* (1991); and *The Mirror Dance: Identity in a Women’s Community* (1983).

The 11 tales that make up her current memoir—which concludes with an intimate novella about a relationship from the late 1970s—navigate exterior landscapes as well as interior heartscapes.

Sometimes, as with the summer camp story, physical changes to the land have taken place. Other times, it’s Krieger’s own perceptions that have changed—as when the avid walker she once was goes from being able to discern the trim on a Victorian in Noe Valley to not being able to spot dirt on the sidewalk.

She also covers the way her dimming vision plays tricks on her—as when, for



Susan Krieger, who often travels near her home on Day Street accompanied by her guide dog Teela, has written a memoir about losing sight and finding vision.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

example, she taps her foot against what looks like a flat sidewalk and finds out it’s actually a curb.

Then with a twist of the kaleidoscope, Krieger turns the focus on her self, sharing her fears of being invisible to others because of her physical condition, and also because of her lesbianism.

“I am much more sensitive about my lesbianism,” she says. “There are much more feelings of vulnerability and rejection.”

Krieger’s stories chronicle incidents in her life over the past decade, with the ending novella being an edited version of stories she wrote in 1979-80. They create a colorful, time-shifting mosaic.

Although her stories are based in reality, Krieger says, “my writing is always a fiction, even though I try to make it true.”

Several of the tales are set in the Bay Area, with two particular to Noe Valley. In “Blindspots,” Krieger recounts being hit by a car a few years ago while crossing Sanchez at Day Street. “Saving a Tree” details how she and her neighbors intervened when a developer began hacking down a shade tree that sat beyond Krieger’s back yard.

Since writing that story, Krieger has had to save the tree again, she says. Both stories reflect the two main changes Krieger has witnessed in Noe Valley since 1983—increased traffic and burgeoning development.

The day she was hit by a car—one that she did not see until the very last second—was a watershed moment for Krieger. She was forced to realize that she was not the same person she was when fully sighted, and that it was time to accept that her life was changing—bringing with it consuming fears of the future.

“I was upset about things and afraid,” Krieger recalls. “What will happen if I can’t see the color of the plants? How will I be happy? How will people like me?”

She also worried that not being able to read would cause her inner world to disintegrate, that she wouldn’t be able to continue her work in writing, that she wouldn’t be independent if she could not drive a car.

In the nine years since she was diagnosed with an inflammatory eye disease called birdshot retinopathy, she has seen most of her vision slip away. But with each small loss there has come a

gradual adjustment. “I remind myself that each time I got to where my vision got worse, it wasn’t terrible.”

She hired a blind woman who programs talking computers to build her a machine she could use. She prints her work out in 42-point type, which she can still see. And driving, which she thought she would miss the most, has been easy to give up.

“I thought giving up driving would be harder,” she says. “But it was so scary—what I would miss would be the fear that I would bump into other cars and hit people. I don’t miss that.”

Recalling her own frustration in finding accessible versions of current reading material, Krieger is making sure that *Things No Longer There*, published by the University of Wisconsin Press, will be made available in digital form for blind readers at the same time the print book is distributed.

“I tried to contribute a little to the crusade,” she says.

Her next project will extend her vision even further. She’s writing a book about traveling blind. □

Susan Krieger will read and sign her memoir *Things No Longer There* on May 22, 2 p.m., at Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia Street (near 20th Street).

From Chapter 10 “Blindspots” in *THINGS NO LONGER THERE* *A Memoir of Losing Sight and Finding Vision* By Susan Krieger

Because my vision has been gradually growing worse, last summer I took a series of lessons in the use of a blind person’s white cane.... A man came out to my house. He walked with me along the streets nearby, showing me how to use the cane, feel the sidewalk, go up and down steps, know if a car was parked across a driveway and then how to get around it. As I walked with him, I learned to listen.

“I’m feeling things,” I said to him at first. “You’re hearing them,” he told me. And I learned to hear the buildings as we passed them, to hear the sound of a tree deflecting the wind, to hear the changing pattern of the air when I stepped away from a building. I learned that a sudden gust of wind and some sun told me I was at a street corner. I learned that when my feet pointed up, I was headed toward the crest of an asphalt street; when they pointed down, I was headed toward the sidewalk on the other side.

I stood on a corner and my teacher told me to listen to the cars approaching in order to know whether they had stopped or kept going. I should gauge where they were by noting the position of the loudest noise in relation to the center of my forehead. He told me to listen at traffic lights for the car movement patterns, to wait until a cycle came around to my turn, then go quickly when the traffic went.

As I walked along the streets, I often walked crooked. He told me to go straight by paying attention to the buildings at my side. The space in front of a building would be quiet, it would feel rather dead. I could walk with the quiet by my side. In other places, however, there were many noises. I walked and closed my eyes and the world without vision in which I was being mobile felt very noisy and busy—full of different ways the air felt when I approached a tree or a street sign, or was about to bump into a garbage can. I heard a house on my left, then a driveway; I felt a staircase coming toward me. I heard construction noises in the distance. I felt the sun and the wind of a corner. I walked up a hill and sensed that up ahead there was something interesting going on. People were talking. Machinery was at work. I felt that the world of walking up a street and not seeing the buildings but hearing them was richer, less flat, more busy, more alive than the visual world. Then I went back to what I could see, because it was easier and I was used to it.

I learned many techniques for the proper use of a white cane from my teacher, but the real lessons for me lay in feeling I could be mobile—without a car, without a license, without seeing. I was not less good as a person for not having sight. I’d be okay.

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*True Divided Light was commissioned by Noe Valley Chamber Music with the support of the Carol Franc Buck Foundation, the Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, and by a Community Partnership Grant from the SF Bay Area Chapter of American Composers Forum. Our Noe Valley (h)EARS Project is generously supported by the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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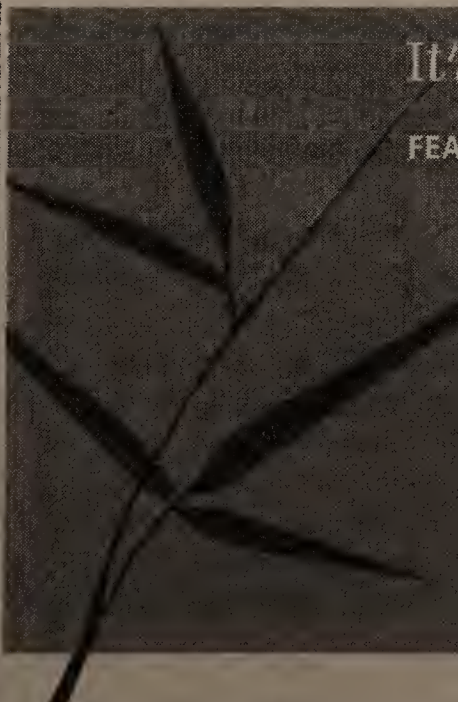
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SHORT TAKES

Republican Speaker at Demo Club

The Noe Valley Democratic Club plans to see how the other half lives, in order to improve the fortunes of Democratic candidates in future campaigns.

Molly Fleischman, co-chair of the group's program committee, has recruited Chuck Rund, a Republican consultant, to speak at the Democratic Club's next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street. Fleischman says she believes that Democrats can learn valuable lessons by listening closely to tactics that Republicans have used successfully in recent political campaigns.

Rund, president of Charlton Research Co., a public policy and opinion consulting firm, will speak on "The Pulse of the Nation" and will cover such topics as the national mood, the approval rating of the president and Congress, critical issues for political success, California politics, and strategies for 2006 and 2008.

Rund has helped clients in business, politics, and the law for more than 20 years. He has been active in four presidential campaigns: Howard Baker in 1980, Reagan/Bush in 1984, and Bush/Quayle in 1988 and 1992. He also has been involved in numerous gubernatorial and legislative campaigns and as an election-night analyst for CBS.

For more information about the Democratic Club, which meets the first Wednesday of the month, call President Rafael Mandelman at 648-4010.

Hey Kids, Street Fair Needs a Logo

Tell your parents you don't need help to win this contest. The new Noe Valley Harvest Festival, a family- and pet-welcoming street fair scheduled for Oct. 22, 2005, needs a logo, and organizers want a local kid to design it.

Anyone under age 18 who resides or attends school in Noe Valley is welcome to enter the contest. There is one grand prize, which will include \$100 in cash, a dinner certificate to the swank Firefly restaurant, a free art class, and other items donated by local merchants, says fair co-organizer Richard May.

The winner will work with a graphic designer to produce the final logo, which will be used on banners, pennants, posters, souvenirs, and all advertising and publicity. Parental help is discouraged, and the logo idea is more important than professional quality.

Why kids only? "The whole idea behind the Harvest Festival is to have a smaller, more community-oriented event rather than a big commercial event," says May. "We thought that if we had the logo that's going to be plastered everywhere designed by a young person from the community, this would have a softer, more fun, more approachable look to it and promote community involvement of all ages."

Entries should be no larger than a standard piece of paper (8 1/2" x 11"); and all mediums are welcome. To submit your idea, send it to: Noe Valley Harvest Festival Logo Contest, c/o Richard May, P.O. Box 460129, San Francisco, CA 94146-0129, or drop it off to Donna Davis at Forbeadin, the bead shop on Church Street just north of 24th Street.

All entries received by May 31 will be considered. For return of your artwork, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with the entry.

Meanwhile, the fair, which will be held on 24th Street from Church Street up to

the Noe Valley Farmers' Market (near Sanchez), has started to collect applications from would-be vendors.

If you'd like to set up a booth, you can find an application form at www.nvhharvestfestival.com. Booth rentals cost \$75 for schools and nonprofit groups, \$200 for neighborhood artists and craftspeople, and \$300 for commercial and food businesses. There is also a nonrefundable \$10 application fee. Successful booth applicants will be notified by July 1 (commercial ones by June 15), and preference will be given to people living or working in Noe Valley.

The Harvest Festival Committee is also looking for commercial and individual sponsors, who can support the fair with donations of anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000. All sponsors will receive official recognition and thanks. For details, go to the festival's web site, or e-mail May at richard@nvhharvestfestival.com. You can also reach him at 206-0231.

Neighborhood Tree Planting

Want a new tree in front of your house, apartment building, or store? If so, May is your month. The Friends of the Urban Forest is organizing a group tree planting in Noe Valley. If you live in the area bounded by 23rd, Clipper, Douglass, and Dolores streets, you could be eligible.

The cost of the program is partly subsidized by the San Francisco Department of Public Works, which means that instead of paying \$300 or more, you pay \$150 for the tree. That price includes permits, concrete cutting and removal of debris, new soil, volunteer help, and the tree of your choice.

Local organizer Stephen Fowler, who lives at 25th and Castro streets, notes that the benefits of planting a tree include cleaner air, shade, more wildlife such as birds, less street noise, and of course a more beautiful environment. When he wanted to plant a tree in front of his home a few years ago, he discovered he couldn't because of the way his sewer and utility lines are positioned. "We were unable to put one in, but I just wanted to see more trees in the neighborhood," he says, "so I called up [Friends of the Urban Forest] and asked how it works."

The Friends will provide advice on the types of trees that will grow best in specific locations and which ones will not damage sidewalks and cause allergies. According to FUF, the two trees recommended most for Noe Valley are the Victorian Box and Southern Magnolia, both of which have fragrant white flowers. Still, many other tree types can flourish in the neighborhood as well.

To find out more and to discuss eligibility requirements, contact Fowler at stephenfowler@yahoo.com or 648-4811.

"Noe Strolls" Rides Again

Just when it seemed Noe Strolls had been permanently parked, founder Martine Paris says all babies and their caregivers are invited to participate in the 11 a.m. Welcome Stroll every Thursday. Other strolls, including those in other parts of the city, have been shelved due to lack of leaders and spotty attendance, says Paris, but she hopes to keep the original one rolling along.

All you need to participate is a baby and a stroller. The stroll begins at Holy Bagel at 3872 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets. First, the grownups fuel up with a free, baby-sized bagel from Holy Bagel. Then the "baby brigade," led by two experienced strollers, heads up 24th Street and over the Castro Hill, along 16th Street, and back down Church Street to 24th Street.

If you'd like more information or are interested in leading a different stroll, visit www.noestrolls.com or e-mail noestrolls@aol.com.



Healthy Women, healthy lives

Knowledge is good. Especially when it comes to your health. We'd like to invite you to visit our Women's Health Event.

Thursday, May 12, 2005, 6 - 8:45 p.m.
Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center
2238 Geary Blvd. at Divisadero, First floor lobby
 This event is free and open to the public.

Reception 6 - 8 p.m.

Enjoy free refreshments and talk with Kaiser Permanente representatives.

Presentations 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

- **Mind and body sampler** - Discover the power of your mind as it relates to your physical well-being through various mind-and-body experiences.
- **Fitness for your bones** - Learn how to help keep your bones healthy so you can prevent osteoporosis.
- **Diet myths and truths** - What's the real truth about the latest fad diets? Come and learn about the benefits of different diets and the realities of weight management.

Presentations 8 - 8:45 p.m.

- **Mind and body sampler** - Discover the power of your mind as it relates to your physical well-being through various mind-and-body experiences.
- **The Health Coach-Is this for you?** - Learn more about our new Health Coach.* Compute your body mass index. Learn about healthy living tips and simple life changes you can make to optimize your health.
- **Looking your best-Skin rejuvenation** - Learn the latest about plastic surgery* and how to look your best.

To reserve your space at our women's health event, please call **415.833.9043** or send an e-mail to healthy.women@kp.org. Please RSVP and indicate your lecture choice before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

*Services described here are provided on a fee-for-service basis. These services are not provided or covered by Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and you are financially responsible to pay for them. Services are provided by providers or contractors of The Permanente Medical Group, Inc. Results of services vary among patients and cannot be guaranteed. For specific information about your health plan benefits, please see your Evidence of Coverage. Photo of models shown, not actual patients.

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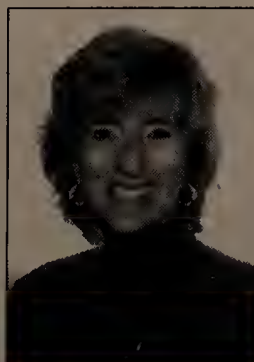
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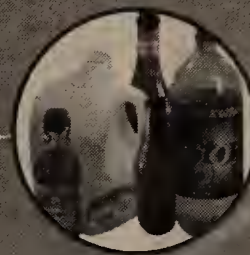
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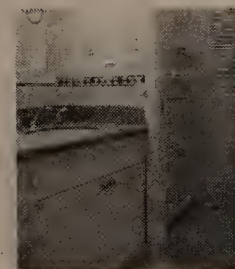
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SHORT TAKES

24th Street Gets a Clean Sweep

"In the Friends of Noe Valley State of the Neighborhood survey, one of the most frequent comments was how dirty and cluttered with trash 24th Street is," says Richard May, a member of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley.

That's why the Friends decided to organize Clean Sweep Noe Valley from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, May 14. To help beautify the neighborhood, join local volunteers at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market minipark on 24th Street between Sanchez and Vicksburg streets.

The Friends will fortify participants with free Starbucks coffee, juice, donuts, Holey Bagel bagels, and healthy snacks. Then groups of 10 will grab their gloves and bags and head out to tidy up 24th Street as well as outer Church Street. Kids and dogs are welcome to join in the fun. The Department of Public Works will come by afterwards to pick up bags of trash and any large items.

May says the Friends are planning another Clean Sweep on Saturday, July 9. They hope to expand the cleaning to the entire neighborhood and enlist folks to organize cleanup parties on their block.

Picture Book Creating a Buzz

Although it features a bee named Buzz Bumble, local author Lynn Hazen's second picture book won't sting at all. Hazen will be signing copies of *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue* at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Castro Street near 24th Street from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 15. The book, illustrated by artist Jill Newton, is appropriate for kids ages 3 to 8. It tells the story of Buzz Bumble and his jealousy over the newly arrived Baby Bumble.

This story of sibling rivalry is one of several books Hazen has written for kids. "I write across all genres," she says. "I have a young adult novel that's with an editor, and I have another picture book about a snail that's also with an editor."

She also has written a sequel to her picture book *Mermaid Mary Margaret*, published in 2004 by Bloomsbury U.S.A. Nowadays, Hazen is working on a novel aimed at middle-school children. When not writing, she is running a preschool out of her home on San Jose Avenue near 23rd Street. Catch her at Cover to Cover and find out what the buzz is about.

Design a Poster for Market

If you've got a poster design that would look good on Market Street, now's the time to submit your idea to the San Francisco Arts Commission. The commission is seeking proposals from professional artists who live in the Bay Area and who do work in painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, or mixed media. The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 16, at 5 p.m.

The winning artist will design and oversee the printing of new art posters to be installed along the tourist-heavy Market Street. The posters will be on display in the triangular kiosks on Market between Van Ness Avenue and the Embarcadero from mid-February 2006 until February 2007. Four artists' work will be chosen to run in three-month exhibitions.

For more specific guidelines and application requirements, visit the San Francisco Arts Commission's web site at www.sfartscommission.org/pubart/ or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Art on Market Street, 2006 Kiosk Poster Series RFP, San Francisco Art Commission, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Talent Show to Benefit Homeless

Formerly homeless entertainers will sing, dance, and more at the Community Housing Project's talent show, known as "A Night with the Stars," at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. The performers will compete for cash prizes while raising money for CHP's nationally recognized supportive housing program.

The Community Housing Project offers permanently affordable housing to homeless people, along with supportive services such as counseling and training that allow tenants to maintain their housing. The agency currently offers more than 300 units of housing in San Francisco and plans to add an additional 300 new units over the next five years. CHP is celebrating its 15th year.

"A Night with the Stars" takes place at the Great American Music Hall at 859 O'Farrell Street. The event will feature a silent auction, cocktails, and appetizers, as well as special guest performances. Tickets are \$75 each; corporate and individual sponsorships begin at \$250. For more information, call 241-9015, ext. 304, or visit www.chp-sf.org.

History Walks for Free

Hundreds of free walking tours will be offered by City Guides San Francisco this month and throughout the summer. The city's topnotch tour guides (and history buffs) will lead excursions to Chinatown and Alamo Square, and hikes up Nob Hill and across the Golden Gate Bridge, to name just a few of the gems.

If you'd like to stay near the neighborhood, join in the "Castro: Tales of a Village" tour on Sunday, May 8, at 11 a.m. This popular tour was organized by two Noe Valley residents and gives walkers a sense of the history and beauty of the Castro neighborhood. To participate, put on some comfortable shoes and meet under the large rainbow flag in Harvey Milk Plaza at the corner of Market and Castro streets.

A walking tour of Noe Valley is usually offered in May and October, notes City Guides Program Director Abby Daniels, but the volunteer who leads the walks is unavailable this month.

To find out when a Noe Valley tour will be scheduled or to learn about summer walking tours in other neighborhoods, check in with City Guides' web site at www.sfcityguides.org. The group is totally non-profit and sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library.

Summer Fun at the Zoo

Kids who love animals and the outdoors are sure to enjoy the San Francisco Zoo's summer camp program. Children ages 4 1/2 through those entering the sixth grade are invited to spend a week at the Zoo learning about the animals who live there and how the staff at the Zoo cares for them. Walks, snacks, crafts, and games are all designed to help kids learn about animals and have fun.

One-week sessions run June 13 through Aug. 26. Kindergartners attend half-day sessions, while the older children stay from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Fees range from \$155 to \$270, depending on the child's age and whether or not the family has a Zoo membership. Aftercare is available for an additional fee.

For the scoop on registration, visit the Zoo's web site at www.sfzoo.org or call 753-7073.



This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant and Noel Lieberman. Please send June Short Take and Calendar items to editor@noevalleyvoice.com.



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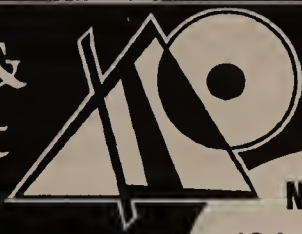


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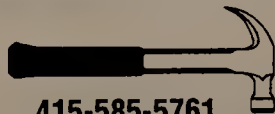
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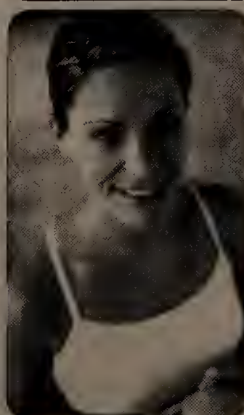
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Teach a Man to Read...

By Lee Hopkins

In a book of essays owned by his younger contemporary William Shakespeare, Michel de Montaigne wrote that reading prepares us for life as well as death.

But what if you cannot read?

This problem is widely perceived by the public as one of disadvantaged children, or those who are foreign-born. But it is a pervasive and serious situation that affects the whole social spectrum of San Francisco.

The San Francisco Public Library's Project Read estimates that 80,000 adults, or one out of eight in our city, have some difficulty with basic reading and writing. Since 1983, Project Read has provided free one-on-one tutoring,

workshops, and ongoing instruction for English-speaking adults who seek to improve their literacy. The program has trained more than 4,000 volunteers to assist an equal number of students, to increase their reading and writing skills, set goals, and enhance their lives. Each year, Project Read volunteers contribute more than 10,000 hours to this worthy cause.

One of these volunteers is Wade Acton, a 72-year-old resident of Noe Street. Acton is a Stanford graduate, a Navy veteran, and a retired corporate communications staffer for Standard Oil of California.

He signed up with Project Read about four years ago, after putting in 20 years tutoring foreign-born students at the Mission Language and Vocational School and the International Institute of San Francisco.

Within six months of joining Project Read, Acton had tutored three students at the Adult Learning and Tutorial Center on Gough Street near Market. This organization, which is affiliated with City College of San Francisco, gets some of its tutors from Project Read.

The Project Read format has been carefully thought out to protect students

from embarrassment or discomfort. For one thing, the program avoids placing students in classrooms with much younger and perhaps far more proficient people.

Before offering the services of a professionally trained tutor, Project Read evaluates each student's individual needs. It also makes sure student and teacher have access to learning and teaching tools, an easy-to-use computer lab, family services to encourage reading at home, vocational help, and referrals to other educational resources.

Students may focus on one objective, such as passing the high school equivalency test or GED. But they often gain collateral benefits, Acton tells me. Their newfound confidence may lead them to register to vote and participate in elections, take advantage of the many supportive programs of the San Francisco Public Library, and encourage the academic goals of family members.

Since 2001, Acton has been tutoring a 61-year-old man who is preparing to take the GED exam, which requires passing tests in five subject areas: writing, reading, math, social studies, and science. Acton meets with the student twice weekly for an hour-long session to work on vocabulary and spelling skills. The two of them together have drawn up a list of 500 frequently misspelled words, and they address 10 each week. Acton says he spends a half-hour beforehand drafting a lesson plan.

Saying that the key element "is to build trust with the learner," Acton structures his tutoring to relate to the real world of his student. As the student is the appointed tenants' rights advocate in his Tenderloin hotel, Acton builds

assignments around newspaper clippings of stories on housing and homelessness and related issues.

One of the most gratifying aspects of working with this student, says Acton, is the man's "sincerity and desire to learn." Acton makes sure each tutorial session leads to measurable progress.

Tutor and student recently celebrated a milestone: A parable the student wrote about a man living in ancient Egypt was featured in *Midnight Writers*, a creative writing journal published by the Adult Learning Center.

Gandhi once said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Both Wade and his student are obviously following Gandhi's advice.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about Project Read, call 415-557-4388, e-mail projectread@sfpl.org, or go to www.projectreads.org. □

Lee Hopkins is a 15-year resident of Noe Valley. His writing has appeared in West Coast and national media.



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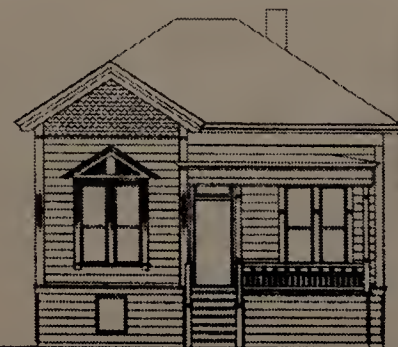
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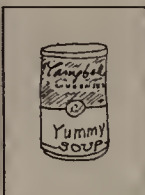
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• MAY 2005 •

Now: Registration is under way for City College's SUMMER TERM; classes at James Lick Middle School begin on June 7. 239-3000. www.ccsf.edu.

Now: SUMMER ZOO CAMP for children age 4 through 6th grade runs from June 13 through Aug. 26; for registration info, 753-7073 or www.sfzoo.org.

May 1: A SPRING FESTIVAL at Rocky Mountain Cooperative Nursery School features live performances, a raffle, games, and face painting. 11 am to 4 pm. Peixotto Playground, 15th Street at Beaver. 552-2929.

May 1: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off dogs in front of Zephyr Real Estate. Noon to 4 pm. 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

May 1: St. Paul's Parish celebrates its 125th year at a BIRTHDAY PARTY "fun raiser and fundraiser" at the Pritikin Mansion, with tours, a gourmet barbecue, and jazz. 2 pm. 648-7538.

May 1: ORANGE SHERBET performs music and poems from its album *Big Brother, Big Sister*, inspired by *Free to Be You and Me*. 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 339-9123.

May 1: "LAUGH FOR THE ANIMALS," a benefit for Animal Care and Control, features comedians and a funny pet photo contest. 7 pm. S.F. Comedy Club, 50 Mason St. 591-3004.

May 1 to 22: The audience gets to pick one of three endings to the story of HANSEL AND GRETEL in the Young Performers Theater interactive version. Sat., 1 pm; Sun., 1 and 3 pm. Fort Mason, Building C. 346-5550.

May 1 to 28: YOGA GARDEN, formerly Castro Yoga, offers "Yoga 101," a Saturday and Sunday four-week series of introductory classes. 1 to 2:30 pm. 286 Divisadero St. 552-9644.

May 2: Artsake holds a six-week Introduction to WATERCOLOR class, taught by Andrew Carson. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. 3961 24th St. www.artsakesf.com.

May 2 to 31: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. & Fri., 10:15 am. Call 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857 for location.

May 3, 10 & 31: Preschool STORY TIME, for children 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

May 4: A MOTHER'S DAY WORKSHOP at See Jane Run features a stroller-friendly walk at 9:15 am, and workshops from 10 am to noon, including a foot care clinic, bra fittings, and discussions of pre- and post-natal fitness and nutrition. 3910 24th St. RSVP to 401-8338 or jess@seejanerunsports.com.



Plate storyteller Patricia Bulitt will appear May 7 at the Randall Museum.

May 4: Artists Paul Lanier and Aiko Cuneo discuss their mother, artist RUTH ASAWA, at a screening of a *Spark* documentary about the Alvarado Arts Program. Sponsored by Parents for Public Schools. 6:30 pm. McKinley School, 14th Street at Castro. 468-7077.

May 4: Artsake offers a six-week CLASS in "Beginning Oil Painting." 6:30 to 8:30 pm. 3961 24th St. www.artsakesf.com.

May 4: Republican political consultant CHARLES RUND will discuss campaign strategies at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-4010.

May 5: Learn the basics of ACRYLIC PAINTING at a six-week class offered by Artsake. 7 to 9 pm. 3961 24th St. www.artsakesf.com.

May 5 to 26: Chris Fernie leads QIGONG classes Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 305-4692.

May 5 to 26: NOESTROLLS offers a Noe/Castro/Mission walk for babies and their caregivers Thursdays, beginning at 11 am. Meet at Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

May 6: *New York Times* science contributor David Kirby discusses the AUTISM epidemic. Sponsored by Natural Resources and Bay Area Holistic Parents Association. 4 pm. Garden Yoga, 286 Divisadero St. 550-2611.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: Theresa Garcia leads ROSEN METHOD movement classes. 8:30 am. Upper Studio, 1021 Sanchez St. 812-9917.

May 7: James Lick students hold a CAR WASH and food sale, with entertainment by dancers and drummers, to raise funds for their 2005 yearbook. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Upper schoolyard; enter on 25th Street between Noe and Castro. 1220 Noe St. 695-5675.

May 7: Treasures untold will be up for grabs at the 30th annual Fair Oaks Neighbors STREET FAIR and Flea Market. 9 am to 4 pm. Fair Oaks between 21st and 26th streets. Rain date is May 14. 648-4977.

May 7: Miraloma Elementary School's SPRING FESTIVAL offers entertainment for the whole family. 11 am to 3 pm. 175 Omar Way. 643-5327.

May 7: STORYTELLER Olga Loya tells tales for all ages in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 355-2828 for reservations.

May 7: PATRICIA BULITT performs an interactive story for all ages, "How I Found My Grandmother in a Plate." 1 pm. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way. 415-554-9600.

May 7: ETH-NOH-TEC reaches into "The Asian Treasure Bag: Folk Tales and Family Fun," at 2 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

May 7: The BUBBLE LADY, Rebecca Niles, performs at the Glen Park Library. 653 Chenery St. 337-4340.

May 7: PETER YARROW (formerly of Peter, Paul, and Mary) and his daughter Bethany perform "A Commitment to Ideals, Hopes, and Dreams," a concert fundraiser for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. 8 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort. Mason. 861-6932.

May 7: GAMESAN SEKAR JAYA, a 30-member bronze and bamboo ensemble, plays the music of Indonesia. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

May 8: A Mother's Day DOG ADOPTION FAIR at the Noe Valley Pet Company showcases pups from Rocket Dog Rescue. 11 am to 4 pm. 1451 Church St. 282-7385.

May 8: City Guides offers a WALKING TOUR, "Castro: Tales of a Village." Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market, under the large rainbow flag. 557-4266.

May 8: Members of the San Francisco Symphony STRING QUARTET perform works by Alexander Glazunov and Iosif Andriasov. 5 pm. The Second Sunday Series at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Oaks St. 515-0425.

May 8: The California Native Plant Society sponsors a self-guided Mother's Day tour of local NATIVE PLANT GARDENS. For addresses, go to www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardentour.html.

May 8: Cartoonist BEN KATCHOR presents "The Life of a Chair-Breaker, and Other Picture Stories," and signs his books at the Cartoon Art Museum. 6 to 8 pm. 655 Mission St. 415-CARTOON.

May 11: City College's Community PRESS DAY features representatives from S.F.'s neighborhood newspapers. 11 am to 2 pm. Diego Rivera Theater, 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3446.

May 12: St. Luke's Hospital holds VOLUNTEER training the second Thursday of the month from 3 to 5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

May 13 to 22: DOC FEST, the S.F. Documentary Film Festival, features non-fiction cinema at the Roxie and the Women's Building. For schedule info, call 820-3907; www.sfindie.com.

May 14: A 24th Street CLEANUP, "Clean Sweep Noe Valley," is sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley and the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club; equipment and refreshments provided. 9 am to noon. Meet at the mini-park at the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on 24th Street near Vicksburg.

May 14: The Main Library hosts a LEGAL ADVICE and Referral Clinic with signups from 10:30 am to noon. Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

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May 14: Alvarado Elementary School's CARNIVAL features games, food, art, and garden projects, and an old-time cakewalk. 11 am to 3 pm. 625 Douglass St. 552-4738.

May 14: Bell Market hosts an Aidells SAUSAGE GRILL to benefit James Lick School, from 11 am to 5 pm. 3950 24th St. 695-5675.

May 15: Look out! The BAY TO BREAKERS foot race begins at 8 am.

May 15: Lynn Hazen will sign her new PICTURE BOOK, *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue*, at Cover to Cover. 11 am to 12:30 pm. 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

May 15: S.F. Animal Care and Control offers a free PET MICROCHIPPING clinic for dogs and cats. 1 to 4 pm. 1200 15th St. 822-5566.

May 17: Ingleside Police Station holds its regular POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting starting at 7 pm. Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane. 404-4000.

May 17: DIANE DI PRIMA hosts the "Friends and Students of Diane di Prima Poetry Series," featuring Genevieve Buehler, Kit Kennedy, and Jeanne Brondino. 7:30 pm. Bird and Beckett, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

May 17 & 22: The Golden Gate MEN'S CHORUS performs "Awed by the Beauty," a concert including the premiere of Robert Kyr's *Veni Creator Spiritus*. May 17, 8 pm; May 22, 4 pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, 3321 Dolores St. 626-6710.

May 18: Community Care Licensing offers a CHILDCARE LICENSING orientation from 9 to 11:30 am, and a supporting workshop from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Children's Council of S.F., 445 Church St. 343-3333.

May 18: DEE SPENCER and her jazz trio perform classics and original compositions, in the San Francisco Treasures Series at the Marsh. 8 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

May 18 to JUNE 8: "HYPNO-BIRTHING, A Celebration of Life" is about relaxation, visualization, and self-help hypnosis. 7 to 9:30 pm. Natural Resources, 816 Diamond St. 550-2611.

May 19: BIKE-TO-WORK DAY features energizer stations during morning and evening commutes, and a cocktail party from 6 to 9 pm at the 111 Minna Gallery. 431-BIKE or www.sfbike.org.

May 19: Velvet Hammer performs at a FUNDRAISER for Alvarado School. 6 to 9 pm. Max San Francisco Showroom, 1633 Fillmore St. 552-4738.

May 20: A benefit for the Nuclear Policy Research Institute features a discussion with Nobel Peace Prize nominee HELEN CALDICOTT, M.D., journalist Amy Goodman, and Julia Butterfly Hill, and premieres the documentary *Helen's War: Portrait of a Dissident*. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 865-5497.

May 21: The Noe Valley Ministry hosts a workshop on LIVING WILLS, trusts, and estates. 10 am to noon; lunch, noon to 1 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Reserve a space at 282-2317.

May 21: The Garden for the Environment offers a class in city VEGETABLE GARDENING. 10 am to noon. Seventh Avenue at Lawton. 731-5627.

May 21: Elizabeth Street's 400, 500, and 600 blocks host a giant GARAGE SALE from 10 am to 2 pm. 826-2044.

May 21: The Noe Valley Democratic Club offers VOTER REGISTRATION in front of Bell Market from 11 am to 3 pm.



Crooked Still performs folk and bluegrass music at the Noe Valley Ministry May 29. Photo by Kelly Sullivan

May 21: The PATRIOT ACT will be discussed by the Gray Panthers Civil Liberties Committee. 2 pm. Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. 552-8800.

May 21: Noe Valley author GIL SMOLIN, M.D., will sign his medical thriller *Reign of the Rat* from 7 to 9 pm. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

May 21: Marley's Ghost performs English FOLK MUSIC with Jamaican, gospel, Cajun, and rhythm and blues influences. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

May 22: A Tribute to HUNTER S. THOMPSON features readings and reminiscences. 1 to 3 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

May 22: Violist Geraldine Walther premieres David Carlson's "True Divided Light," a work commissioned by Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC, with pianist Roy Bogas. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

May 22: SUSAN KRIEGER discusses her latest book, *Things No Longer There: A Memoir of Losing Sight and Finding Vision*. 2 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

May 22: CANDY FOREST leads the San Francisco Children's Chorus and the teen singers of Community Music Center, with guest artist Maya Simpson. 4 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

May 24: FILMS for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

May 24: The New College School of Law holds a workshop, "How to Collect a SMALL CLAIMS COURT Judgment." 10 am. Civic Center Courthouse, 400 McAllister St. 241-1300.

May 24: Richard A. Slezak discusses "The COLUMBARIUM Mystery," about a secret society, in a presentation for the San Francisco History Association. 7 pm. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church. 750-9986.

May 26: The Bernal Heights BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB features Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. 4 pm. 500 Cortland St. 355-2810.

May 28: The Noe Valley Library offers a LAPSIT for babies and their parents. 10:30 am. 451 Jersey St. 355-5707.

May 29: The CARNAVAL parade will feature dancers and drummers from James Lick Middle School. Procession starts at 9:30 am at 24th and Bryant streets. www.carnaval.sf.com.

May 29: Walter Brents discusses the poetry of LORD BYRON at Bird and Beckett Books. 4:30 pm. 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

May 29: CROOKED STILL and Jeff Kazor & the Swerve Beats perform old-time and modern folk and bluegrass music. 7 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

May 31: The POLICE-COMMUNITY meeting at Mission Station begins at 6 p.m. 630 Valencia Street. 558-5400.

June 1: Besides singers and dancers, the annual James Lick TALENT SHOW includes a student art show. 6 pm. 1220 Noe St. 695-5675.

June 2: Friends of Noe Valley hosts a COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss restaurant ordinance modification and library renovations. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-9918.

June 3: PAMELA HOLM, author of *The Toaster Broke, So We're Getting Married*, will read and sign copies of her new novel, *The Night Garden*. Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

JUNE BUG!

The next edition of the *Voice* will be distributed on or before **June 3, 2005**. The deadline for May calendar items is **May 15**. Please note that because of space limitations, Noe Valley events take priority. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to calendar editor zabarska@aol.com.



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SCREEN AND SCREEN AGAIN!

Films That Feed the Union Spirit

By David O'Grady

Nutraceutical Corporation, owners of Real Food Company on 24th Street, should have gone to the movies before dismissing employees around Labor Day 2003. They might have learned a lesson from the textile mill owners who drove Sally Field to brandish a "Union" sign in the 1979 film *Norma Rae*.

Whether Real Food was union-busting or just renovating the store is now in the hands of the National Labor Relations Board. (A ruling is expected this summer.) Meanwhile, neighborhood residents continue to feel the loss of a dedicated organic grocer in Noe Valley. We may be going hungry, but the following films about working men and women can feed the flagging union spirit.

Norma Rae in L.A.

In the overlooked *Bread and Roses* (2000), a Latino urban version of *Norma Rae*, the heroine Maya, played by Pilar Padilla, is a resourceful illegal immigrant who escapes her "coyotes" to join her sister as a non-union office janitor in Los Angeles. While cleaning an office, she runs into Sam, a trespassing labor organizer played by Adrian Brody, as he flees from building security. On impulse,

Maya helps Sam escape, and soon their mutual ideals—and attraction—turn into a partnership to unionize the workers against all odds.

If at times a bit naïve about the challenges of unionizing, *Bread and Roses* doesn't flinch at the harsh realities faced by undocumented workers caught in the union-management crossfire. In one blistering scene, Maya confronts her older sister for betraying their efforts to unionize. But Maya's righteousness turns to despair as she learns of the terrible sacrifices her sister has made to keep the family afloat. It will take all of Maya's pluck, and a bit of deviousness, to protect those she loves.

War in West Virginia

Independent film director John Sayles tapped the dark and often forgotten Appalachian coal mine wars of the 1920s to create *Matewan* (1987). His fictional account follows labor organizer Joe Kenehan, played by Chris Cooper, who arrives in a West Virginia company town to find the coal mine bosses engaged in race-baiting, economic exploitation, and union sabotage.

Joe forges a tenuous peace among the local, immigrant, and African-American workers to organize a strike and join the union. The coal-mining company fights back, threatening to evict families from their homes, until the town sheriff stands up to the company's henchmen. Hostilities mount, and Joe's hopes for a non-violent resolution fade as both sides dig in for the inevitable bloody showdown.

Despite the bleak story, *Matewan's* sepia-toned cinematography and strong performances from Cooper, James Earl Jones, and David Strathairn make this a film to see.

"We're the People That Live"

If ever there were a required film for Californians, it would be the dust bowl

epic *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940). Director John Ford's classic adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel gave Henry Fonda the role of a lifetime.

Fonda plays Tom Joad, an ex-convict returning to the farm in Oklahoma who finds that the bank has taken what's left of his family's dried-up claim. Forced on the road to California, Tom and Ma Joad help their clan survive dust bowl camps, company farm exploitation, and anti-worker hostility from corporate thugs.

Though the film is not as strident as Steinbeck's book, it's a miracle *The Grapes of Wrath* was made at all, given the subject. Steinbeck is reported to have said when he saw the film that it helped him believe his own words. Viewers will believe it, too, when they watch the famous scene of the Joad family rolling into its first Okie camp, confronting one grim, lanky face after another. Climaxed by two of the most famous soliloquies in film history—Tom Joad's visionary "I'll be there" and Ma Joad's pragmatic "We're the people that live"—*The Grapes of Wrath* is a masterpiece.

Touring South America by Motorcycle

The motorcycle in *The Motorcycle Diaries* (2004)—a much-loved but temperamental Norton—gives up the ghost early, but the story is worth the trip in this coming-of-age, buddy-road movie. The fact that one of the young men will become the famous "Che" Guevara puts a slant on the film that depends on your feelings about the controversial revolutionary. Regardless, actors Gael Garcia Bernal as Guevara and Rodrigo De la Serna as his friend Alberto Granado movingly depict the journey Ernesto "Che" Guevara recorded in his diary.

It's 1952, and the guys, both medical students leaving Buenos Aires for an as-

signment at a leper colony in the Peruvian Amazon, decide to take the long way getting there. Soon their quest for girls and adventure turns to deeper issues as they discover the economic and political plight of modern South America.

The effect on Guevara is profound, as revealed in one scene where he and Alberto arrive at Machu Picchu. Marveling at this monument to South America's past, Guevara contemplates the force that may be necessary to achieve a better future. But ideology mainly rides in the back seat of the story. Like any good road movie, *The Motorcycle Diaries* is about the journey, not the destination.

The Tramp in the Machine

The last film to feature Charlie Chaplin's beloved Tramp character, *Modern Times* (1936) is a poignantly funny critique of the assembly-line age, which speaks to adults and children alike. A literal cog in the works at the local factory, the Tramp one day meets a homeless young woman, played by Chaplin's then-wife Paulette Goddard, who has been arrested for stealing a loaf of bread. The Tramp generously takes the rap for the theft, and when he gets out of jail, makes a new life with his grateful sweetheart.

But instead of living happily ever after, the Tramp is repeatedly jailed for various offenses, all hilarious and unintentional, including hitting a police officer with a brick during a factory lockout. The only refuge for the couple turns out to be, fittingly enough, a job as entertainers at a neighborhood restaurant.

While Chaplin makes light of modern indignities with some of the most famous bits in movie history (being force-fed by an automated lazy Susan, tumbling through giant gears unscathed), he also illustrates that the rights of the individual are as sacred as laughter. □

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Rick Cornns is the main man behind the scenes at Drewes Bros. Meats. "I do it all," he says, from cutting up to cleaning up. Cornns moved to Noe Valley from Oakland four years ago to be closer to his job and is celebrating his 10th anniversary working at the venerable market at 1706 Church Street.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in and around Noe Valley. This month we describe a Mom and Pop store specializing in organic foods at 26th and Guerrero streets, and an antique and collectibles shop on Church Street that has recently undergone a renovation.

THE PICKLED HUTCH 1605 Church Street at 28th Street 641-8875

www.thepickledhutch.com

In 2000, Debbie Cole opened The Pickled Hutch on outer Church Street, an antique shop that has inspired a dedicated local clientele. In February, Cole handed over the reins to her manager of one-and-a-half years, Lisa Wilson. (Cole is concentrating on her successful estate sales business and other interests in Petaluma, Wilson says.)

Wilson, 44, closed the shop for five weeks to give it a facelift and reopened March 8.

"I've completely renovated the back yard, so I have more garden accessories," says the new owner. "But we still have the clothing and jewelry, soaps and candles, and the emphasis is still on the antiques and home decor. I've just opened up the variety of things we have available."

The Pickled Hutch—named after an actual hutch with a "pickled" or white-washed finish that was the signature piece of the shop until the cupboard finally sold—is a warren of rooms, including a backyard garden with its own "cottage" and shed. During the renovation, Nader Meykadeh of Green Hands, who lives near the shop and offered his services, completely redesigned the back yard, removing the deck and replacing it with gravel, potted plants, and furniture. In total, there are eight separate spaces in store, and all are filled with items for sale.

The front room is the largest, with butter yellow walls and original Douglas fir floors. (Originally, the shop was a candy store, and the family who owned it lived in the back. Wilson sells tins of Chewy Peps candy, \$16, in homage to the space's confectionary beginnings.)

The room is devoted to the biggest pieces of furniture—chairs, sofas, tables, lamps, and dressers—and also includes



Lisa Wilson, owner of The Pickled Hutch on Church Street, stands behind a favorite antique sofa. Photo by Pomela Gerard

the new signature piece: a large black hutch with toile accents (\$2,150). Wilson, a former financial coordinator who lives just three blocks from the shop on Cesar Chavez Street, refurbished the hutch in her own garage.

She views her shop as a "collective effort" of individuals, including Cole, who still sells items on consignment.

If you walk beyond the sideboards and loveseats, you'll enter two more rooms, one with vintage clothing provided by Charlene Akers, a consignment seller; and another filled with collectibles such as flowered tea sets, decorative rooster sculptures, and a 1940s vanity with stool (\$350). Even the functioning bathroom is filled with chinaware for sale.

Wilson describes the furniture and knickknacks as eclectic—from country kitsch to mid-century to shabby chic. "What we emphasize are our exceptional prices," she says. She adds that antique dealers and interior decorators often come by the shop because they know they can find bargains, from an \$8 glass pitcher to a \$150 refurbished dresser to a \$624 leather wingback chair.

The shop is also a haven for loyal locals, who pop in each week to see if anything new has arrived from the antique fairs or estate sales Wilson frequents. In addition to the antiques and collectibles, The Pickled Hutch sells Votivo candles (\$21.50) and handmade cards by Mel Harrold Ink (\$1.75 to \$3.95).

The Pickled Hutch is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Olivia Boler

26TH AND GUERRERO MARKET 1400 Guerrero Street at 26th Street 415-282-6274

"My parents had a grocery and my grandparents, too. It's in the blood," says Ayda Nasser, who helps run the 26th and Guerrero Market with her cousin, Raouf Nasser, owner and proprietor.

"In the old country?" I say, pointing east.

"Oh yes, back, back..." She waves her hand and looks in the same direction. "Way back. In a different time."

Clearly, the family penchant for store-keeping has remained strong in the 20 years since Ayda left Birzeit, Palestine, to come to America.

The 26th and Guerrero Market, which opened in November 2004, is a bright, clean, and richly stocked corner grocery. Outside the front door, a column in muted but colorful tiles draws the eye upward toward an oval sign decorated with a whimsical, buzzing bumblebee. Inside, one's attention focuses on the abundant display of fresh fruits and vegetables and neat rows of canned and packaged goods, reminiscent of the dear, departed Mikeytom or Real Food Company (though the store is much smaller).

You can buy a carton of milk or a quart of Arak, a loaf of fresh Acme herb bread or a bag of Philippa's Love Bites cookies (\$3.89). Thanksgiving Coffee in bulk or can runs \$9.29 a pound, and there's a large selection of herb teas including the popular Rooibus. The well-stocked liquor shelves offer moderately priced Ficklin Tinta Port or an extravagant bottle of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin champagne. There are also emergency-standby supplies, from Kashi cereal to Pedigree dog food to Kleenex. Paul Newman fans can find a wide selection of Newman's Own dressings (\$4.29), snacks, and spaghetti sauces. And 90 percent of the store's produce is organic.

"Yes," Ayda says, "people shop here for our organic fruits and vegetables. They sell quickly."

Organic red chard, basil, carrots, bok choy, lettuce, apples, lemons, even or-

ganic tomatoes and avocados fill up two large bins. Prices are reasonable (organic avocados, \$2.29; organic bananas, 99 cents a pound). You can buy the *New York Times* in a stand next to the counter or pick up the *Noe Valley Voice* under the coffee beans.

There is a sample box of honey bread on the counter, so my mouth is full when Ayda asks, "Do you want to know what Birzeit means?" I smile and nod. "It means 'well of oil,'" she says. "We had lots of olive trees there, long ago, and our water came from wells. When the crop of olives was too huge, they'd store the excess olive oil in the wells."

Ayda, who lives in Daly City, says Raouf, who lives in the Mission, chose to locate the store close to Noe Valley because "it's a very nice corner, very nice area, very nice people, all together very nice."

You can shop at 26th and Guerrero Market until 9 p.m. seven days a week. The store opens at 8 a.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. on weekends.

—Doug Konecky



Raouf Nasser is proud of the abundance of organic fruits and vegetables at his 26th and Guerrero Market. Photo by Pomela Gerard

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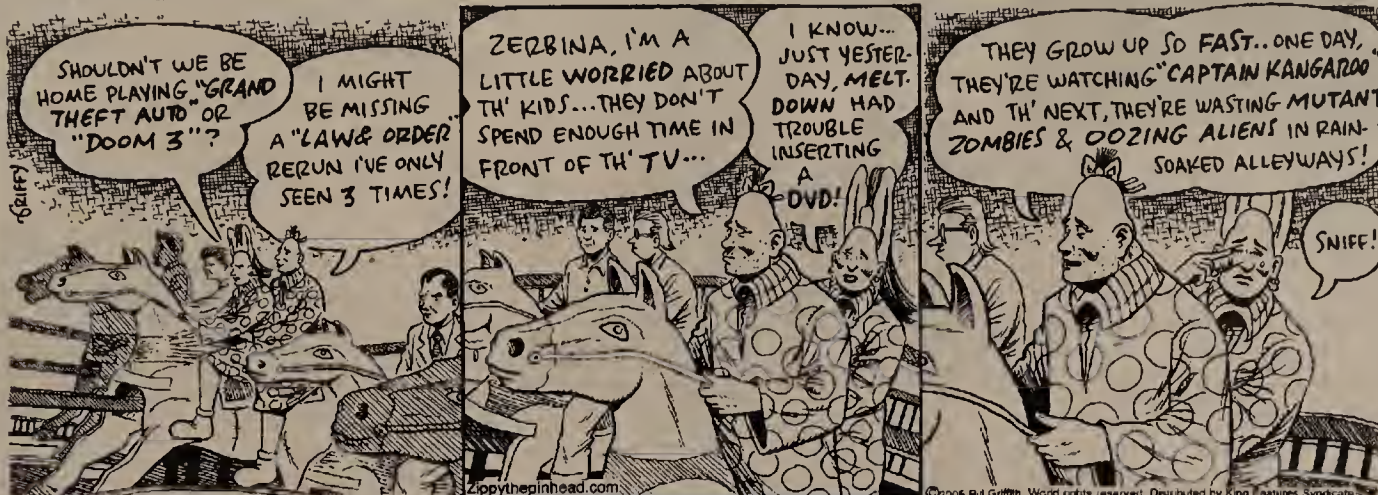
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Throughout this great land of ours, let this proclamation go forth: You will read. You will take a photo. And you will mail it to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only then will you see yourself or your friends on this page. Returns will be made if you include an SASE. If you have Internet access, you can e-mail photos to jack@noevalleyvoice.com. We thank you for your cooperation.



Kaleigh and Ryan Melton took their February reading assignments and visited their grandfather Tony Ward in Whakatane, New Zealand, where they swam in the ocean every day.



Nancy Thompson put on her shades to read during her September trip to Costa Rica. In the background, one of the world's most active volcanos, Volcán Arenal, is quiet for the moment.



Katie Innes proves she kept up with her home neighborhood news during her semester of study at the University of Adelaide in Australia.



Noe Valley Music Series founder and head honcho **Larry Kassin**, with wife **Martha** and son **Alec**, made it back across the Canadian/U.S. border after showing their copy of the *Voice* to the appreciative citizens of Vancouver Island.



Kimberly Noelle Charles paused between trains in Tokyo to check the news from what has been her home for four years, the neighborhood soon to be renamed Noelle Valley.



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San Francisco's Fairs to Remember

Editor's Note: Twenty-first Street resident Florence Holub, now 86, wrote this remembrance in 1989, 50 years after she worked as a sketch artist at the Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco's third major world's fair. To see photos and read more about the 1939 Exposition, visit www.treasureislandmuseum.org or the Bancroft Library at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/Looking/hardtimes.html>.

The coming of May's Carnaval in the Mission District has prompted some recollections of past parades and celebrations in San Francisco. I have seen a few parades in my 70 years, but I recall my first with special clarity.

It took place one evening in 1925 in San Francisco, shortly after my family came to California from the farm lands of Idaho. This parade was an extravaganza called the Diamond Jubilee, a celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of California's admission to the union.

Crowds of citizens from every neighborhood lined Market Street, watching with awe and amazement as shimmering floats slid by in the semi-darkness—floats decorated with thousands of tiny, diamond-like lights and graced with beautiful fairy princesses wearing sparkling tiaras.

As my young brothers and I sat on orange crates in front of our parents, behind the ropes that marked the parade boundaries, I thought to myself, Never again would I see anything so wondrous!

In the decade that followed, my prophecy proved accurate. In comparison to the Diamond Jubilee, the parades of the late '20s and early '30s seemed like collections of weary, out-of-step marchers accompanied by clamorous marching bands playing off-key. But in 1939, following the completion of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco hosted the Golden Gate International

Exposition, a world's fair situated on the newly manmade landfill called Treasure Island.

That year, I was a 19-year-old art student at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute), and during summer vacation I did quick sketches of fair visitors. I also was one of about 20 girls who worked for a sand sculptor on the "gayway," where there were many concessions, rides, and shooting galleries, as well as the surprisingly popular Sally Rand's Nude Ranch, where an assortment of unlikely girls played volleyball half-heartedly, wearing only cowboy hats and holsters. (Sally Rand was a graceful fan dancer of the time, who manipulated her large, plumed fans so that her nude body was never really visible.)

There were many fascinating carnival folk, or "carnies," who followed the fairs across the nation, and one of them, a man who worked close to our operation, would guess a person's weight for 25 cents. If he erred, the customer won a walking cane.

One slow day, I noted that he gave away a lot of canes, and I wondered how he could make a living that way. Upon mentioning this to a more worldly coworker, I was informed that this was a come-on, done deliberately to stimulate business. When the man guessed wrongly, he still made money because the canes cost only 10 cents, so he was still 15 cents ahead. When he guessed correctly, he kept the cane and the customer's quarter as well, which was worth a great deal back then. (In 1939, streetcar fares were 10 cents; an Italian dinner with red wine cost \$1 at the Iron Pot Restaurant on Montgomery Street, and the finest full-course steak dinner at Alfred's could be had for a mere \$1.25.)

All through the summer, we sketch-
artists worked two-hour shifts, then were relieved by fresh girls. This gave us a break in which to explore the exposition. Treasure Island was an enchanting place: there were

about 40 large buildings and many smaller pavilions and courts and promenades covering the island.

The majestic Tower of the Sun presided over a long square pool and fountain, and covering its lawns were expanses of brilliant, multicolored flowers that formed intricate patterns like those on a Persian carpet.

The enormous sculpture "Pacifica"—a female figure meant to embody the cultural gifts of the Pacific Rim, which was the exposition's theme—was designed by Ralph Stackpole, head of the sculpture department at the art school. Pacifica, as well as most of the



abundant statuary, was not constructed to last, and would soon be lost to history. However, one piece of monumental sculpture, designed for the fair's San Francisco Building and cast in black synthetic stone, has endured. This delightful rendering of playful whales later found an appropriate home in the central courtyard at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park.

At the fair, many of my breaks were spent watching the progress of the famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera and his assistant, San Francisco's Emmy Lou Packard, as they sat high upon a scaffold, painting the huge mural that now occupies one wall of the theater at City College of San Francisco.

I also roamed through villages and courts and buildings filled with displays. Live music from every culture was being played everywhere. There were classical as well as big band performances, and, of course, parades and dancers.

Most visitors went to and from the fair on the ferries that ran across the bay and gave riders a dazzling view of the

brightly lit island, including a fine look at the tall, spotlighted Ferry Building before it became dwarfed by highrises.

When after two exciting years the fair ended and the bright lights were turned off, I wondered poignantly if we would ever be so happily engaged again. We were, in time, but on a smaller, more intimate scale.

In the late 1970s, newcomers from Latin America, bringing their culture with them, began a yearly parade and celebration called Carnaval next door to Noe Valley in the Mission. With each passing year, this grassroots festival has grown in size and quality.

The Carnaval parade is always a lively, happy event, with salsa music and skillfully choreographed samba dancing performed by scantily clad dancers topped with plumed head-dresses and looking like so many pre-Columbian lords and ladies letting their hair down. The dancing is sometimes erotic but done with good-natured humor, with taste, and always before a large and appreciative audience.

Last year [1988], the Noe Valley Samba group, directed by Jorge Duarte, designed a parade float based upon the theme of peace. The float was decorated with white doves and symbols representing the earth and other planets. This year, Duarte and his group focused on the endangered rain forest, and created a float resplendent with palm trees and colorful tropical birds.

The Diamond Jubilee can never happen again, nor can that memorable Exposition of 1939, but Carnaval can and will come alive, again and again, because those who perform in it do so just for the joy of it! □

San Francisco's 2005 Carnaval takes place on Memorial Day weekend, May 28 to 29. The two-day festival on Harrison Street will feature crafts and food booths, dance lessons and demonstrations, and live entertainment on three stages. Carnaval's Grand Parade, on Sunday, May 29, kicks off at 9:30 a.m. at 24th and Bryant streets and dances north on Mission Street to 17th Street.



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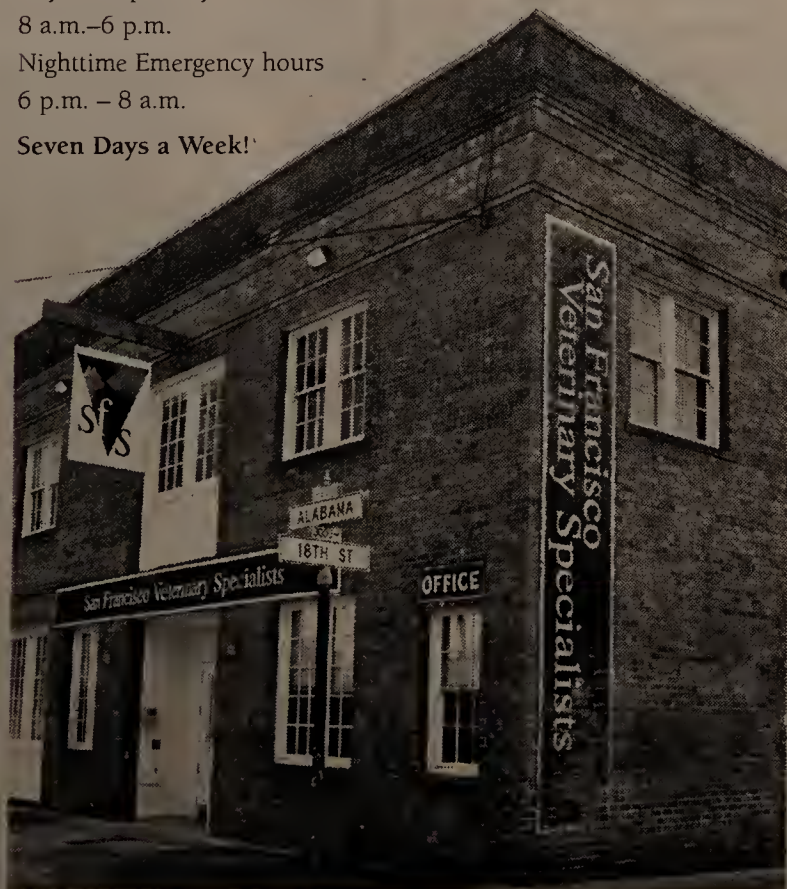
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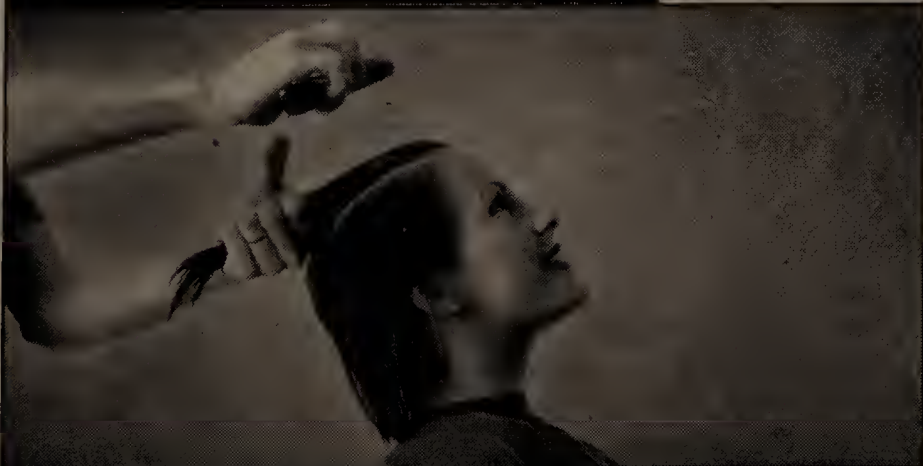
offers the current news stories,
features, and Class Ads. The site
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to the present. Copies of the
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May 1977, as well as an index by
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CLOSE TO HOME

Glide Rocks a
Sunday Morning

Church Better Than Brunch?

By Rosie Ruley Atkins

Before we leave the house, Miles scans the bookshelf, his hands slapping nervously at his thighs.

"Aha!" He plucks a title from the shelf and clutches it to his chest, turning to reveal that he's chosen the Bible. "I think it'll be good to have this with us."

My son is 9 years old, and this Sunday morning marks the first time he'll be attending a church service for anything other than a wedding or a funeral. He's worried that we're not going to do it right.

"Just keep an open heart and it'll be great," my husband says. (Generally, my husband enjoys opening his heart to major-league baseball broadcasts of East Coast games on Sunday mornings.)

Twenty minutes later, we're at Ellis and Taylor streets, under a crystal-clear blue sky. Even the glorious spring sunshine can't mask the bedraggled state of the Tenderloin, however.

"Offer a prayer up for me, will you, brother?" says a man perched on a cracked milk carton as we pass.

"Sure will," my husband tells him.

"What kind of a church is this?" Miles asks. "And why does that guy think our prayers will count?"

"The church is called Glide," I say. "It's devoted to helping the people who live in this neighborhood. Everyone counts at Glide."

People greet each other with hugs and high fives as the sanctuary fills around us. The atmosphere is boisterous; nobody is blasé. The people around us are happy.

"That stuff's not religious," Miles says, noticing the images of flowers, dogs, and families that are projected on a screen above the choir's risers.

"It's about spirituality and finding the beauty in everything," says his dad.

It occurs to me that we've taken our child to any number of artistic, musical, cultural, and life events over the years, but his exposure to religious and spiritual events has been woefully limited. Amid the media clamor surrounding Pope John Paul II's death, Miles asked, "What is the Pope?"

The congregation rises, applauding wildly as the 140-member choir, the Glide Ensemble, takes the stage. Kids jostle for space on the carpeted steps that lead to the pulpit. A little boy digs a tambourine out of his backpack and beats out the rhythm, as the Ensemble, backed by a tight nine-piece band that features a swinging horn section, belts out "We Shall Not Be Moved." Two little girls dance on a wide window sill. Miles grins as he watches his dad sing along.

"How does he know the words?" he asks.

The Reverend Douglass Fitch, pastor of the church, greets us and makes a joke about Prince Charles' recent wedding. His joke falls flat, and the congregation groans good-naturedly. Fitch laughs. "You're still my family," he says. "Whether you come every Sunday morning or if this is your first time, this is your family. So love someone you've never met. They're your family."

"I get it," Miles whispers.

We sing some more music, and then it's time for the greeting. A man in front of me embraces me as an old friend would.

"Do you know him?" Miles asks.

"Nope."

"Still, he's your family now."

Dorian, a member of the Ensemble, comes forward to make the weekly announcements. She lists the astonishing array of volunteer opportunities available through Glide.

Glide Memorial United Methodist Church serves over 1 million meals a year to the city's poor and homeless. The church also operates a free health clinic, a walk-in center to give people a safe respite from the streets, and a resource center to help people get into drug and al-



Glide Memorial Church, known for its good works, rousing preaching, and blow-your-socks-off choir, has become one of the city's biggest tourist attractions. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

cohol treatment. The church's job-training program provides clients with the skills they need to succeed in the work world; its family services division gives holistic support to parents and children. The CW House, named for Glide's guiding light, the Reverend Cecil Williams (whose title has now been expanded to CEO and Minister of National and International Ministries), is a 52-unit apartment building offering subsidized housing to needy families, people in recovery, and low-income persons with HIV/AIDS.

Dorian also talks about Glide's participation in Project Connect, the city program that sends trained volunteers out to connect homeless people with social services.

"We're everywhere," she says. "Shake this family tree and we all come out." The laughs are punctuated with hearty "Amen's."

The Ensemble starts singing again. A man steps forward for a solo that is so emotional and raw it brings tears to the eyes of every single person in the building.

When the man finishes his song, Miles pulls his dad and me close. "This is great," he says.

Cecil Williams, who has led Glide for 40 years, steps to the pulpit. Everyone leans forward, expectant. The kids in the front settle down and listen. This is a man with charisma. Williams talks about the crowds at the funeral for Pope John Paul II. "When people are on the move like this, things happen," he says. "Good things can happen when people come together in peace."

He talks about the importance of marking life's events with celebrations and joy. He talks about how everyone is welcome at Glide and how, even in San Francisco, this congregation represents an amazing diversity.

You do get the sense that in this place anything can happen.

After finishing his comments, Williams peers out into the crowd. "Will

that young man in the back come forward?"

The young man is familiar. As he passes our pew, I recognize the wrap-around shades.

"Oh, my God," a girl squeals. "It's Bono!"

"We should come to church more often," my husband laughs, shaking his head at this improbable scene.

"That guy's a rock star," says Miles, dazzled.

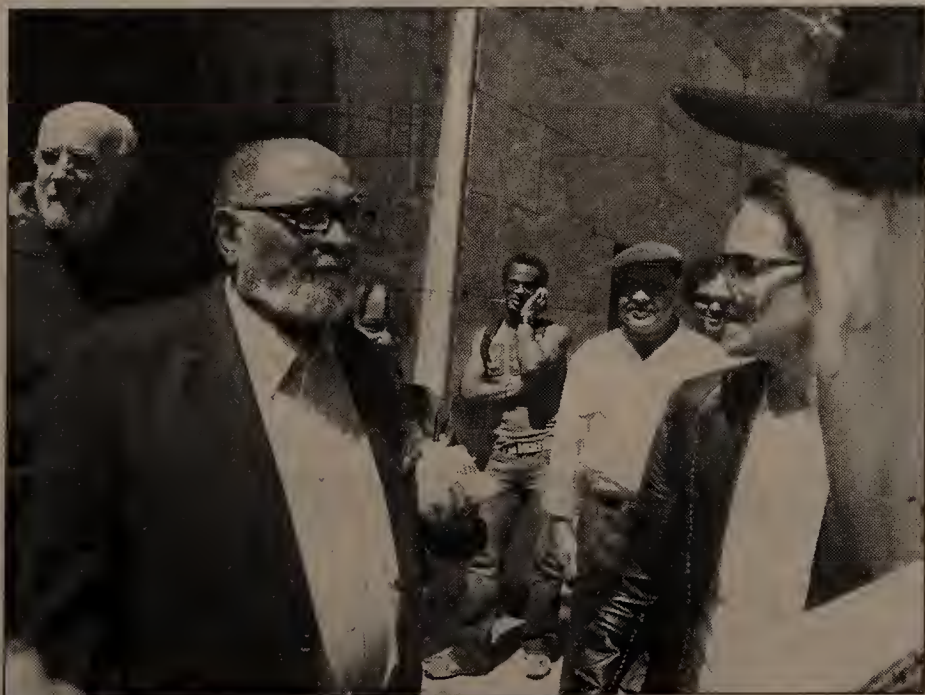
The lead singer from U2 embraces Reverend Williams and greets the members of the Ensemble as old friends. Apparently, Bono attends Glide whenever he's in San Francisco. On this occasion, he talks about debt forgiveness in developing nations and tells a funny story about meeting the pope. "He was a great man," Bono says. "But Cecil Williams is the pope of San Francisco."

Bono leads the congregation in a rousing version of "We Shall Overcome," and follows with "Stand by Me," dropping in a couple of improvisational verses that extol the work of Glide. The church is rocking as we all sing and dance along.

The band kicks into a soulful rendition of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" as the exhilarated crowd files into the street.

Out on the sidewalk, we crack up when we hear a woman on a cell phone say, "You really should've been in church today."

"It would've been good even without a rock star," Miles says. □



Reverend Cecil Williams (left) and U2's Bono chat with churchgoers and fans outside Glide Memorial on a sunny Sunday morning in April. Photo by Rosie Ruley Atkins



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Glide Memorial Church is located at 330 Ellis Street at Taylor Street. Services are every Sunday morning at 9:30 and 11 a.m., but you must arrive early. As Reverend Fitch says, "Even your mother can't save you a seat." We got there at 10:30, and the church was filled by 10:45. Visit www.glide.org to learn more about Glide's mission and volunteer opportunities.

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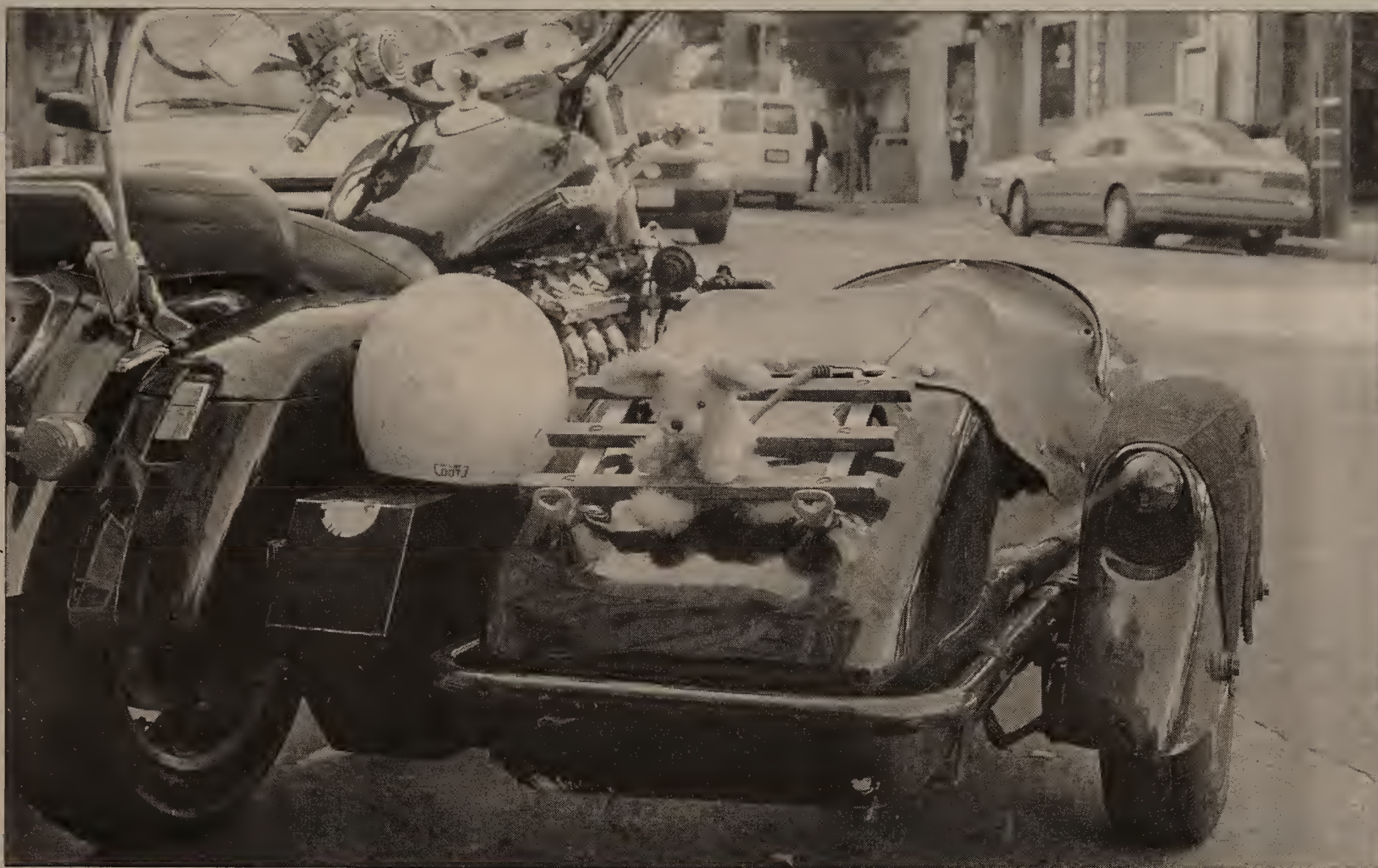
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Photo by Mark Coggins



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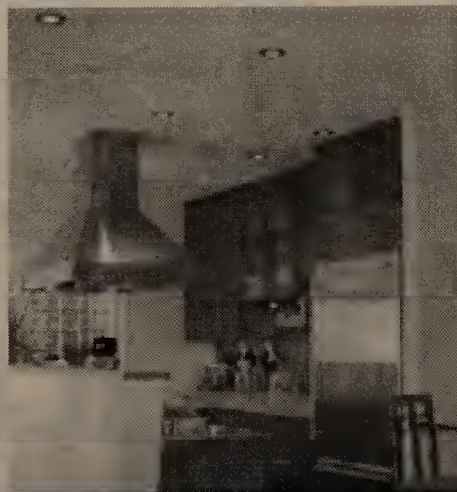
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SCHOOL REPORT

The *Voice* School Report features news from three local public schools—Alvarado Elementary, Fairmount Elementary, and James Lick Middle School—provided by school parents and volunteers.

JAMES LICK

To Spring, Mothers, and Cinco de Mayo

On the morning of May 5, the James Lick community will gather in the school's beautiful auditorium on Noe Street to celebrate the liberation of Mexico from France, the arrival of spring, and the closeness of Mother's Day. Our sixth-graders will sing a musical tribute to Cesar Chavez produced by Carmen Steele and Deb Bradway of Music in Schools Today. Popular Mexican band leader Miguel Govea and his 12-year-old daughter, Cecilia "CC" Govea, will also highlight the event.

Bell Market Grills Sausages to Benefit James Lick

Imagine eating lunch in Noe Valley for only three bucks, while helping us educate some of the best kids in town! On Saturday, May 14, the good folks at Bell Market will throw some delicious Aidells sausages on the grill at 11 a.m., and sell sandwiches with chips and a beverage until 5 p.m., for just \$3—and all of the money collected will go to James Lick.

A warm thank you to Tim Arrivas, manager of Bell's 24th Street store, and to Chris O'Leary, Northern California vice president for sales and marketing, for this wonderful idea and their generous support.

Samba at the Car Wash

Our spring car wash and food sale has been moved to Saturday, May 7. This time, we're adding a free peek at our Carnaval contingent practicing their thundering drum lines and expert dance moves while your car (\$5), truck (\$8), or SUV (\$8) relaxes in the suds and you chow down on a plate of delicious food (\$5). The bubbly benefit for the school yearbook begins at 8:30 a.m. and con-

tinues until 2:30 p.m. You can drive in through the gate on 25th Street between Castro and Noe streets.

Art and Talent Shows Combined

On the evening of Wednesday, June 1, families visiting the school will get two shows for the price of one when the famous James Lick Talent Show shares the stage with a rising star, Ms. Redfield's annual Art Show. Self-portraits, linocuts, *nichos* (shrines), and contour drawings will be on display in the hallways while our talented kids perform. The fun starts at 6 p.m., and will be repeated on Thursday for our students. You can also view more than 100 works of art by James Lick students online at www.artsonia.com/schools/jameslick1.

By the way, we just got word that art teacher Alexandra Redfield will receive the Levi Strauss Outstanding Teacher Award at this year's Youth Arts Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens (see below).

Carnaval!

Don't forget to watch the James Lick contingent of spectacular dancers and drummers in the big Carnaval parade in the Mission on Sunday, May 29. (It starts at 9:30 a.m. at 24th and Bryant, and salsas west on 24th and north on Mission to 17th.) You can support this effort by purchasing a colorful T-shirt for \$15 at the school.

Thanks for the Brain Food

Muchas gracias to Bell Market and McKesson Foundation for supplying nutritious snacks—granola bars, cheese sticks, and fresh fruit—to our students on the days they've been taking standardized tests.

Special thanks to Leslie Crawford (Noe Valley Farmers' Market) and Carrie Varoquier (Friends of Noe Valley) for their assistance in obtaining these contributions, which mean a lot when so much depends on the results of the tests.

Keeping in Touch

As the school year draws to a close, please contact Denise Rueda to confirm times and dates for the James Lick Merchants/Community Alliance meetings and Coffee with the Principal. Call 695-5675 or our message number, 436-0349, after school hours.

Or you may drop by the school at 1220 Noe Street at Clipper Street and visit parent liaison Denise Rueda in Room 108. Thank you for sharing your ideas, talents, enthusiasm, and support.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

Tuning Up for FiestaVal

It's that time of year again—the cooks in the Fairmount community are pulling out their best recipes, the children are tuning up their instruments and their voices, and the local shopkeepers are passing along some of their prized items for the raffle and auction. FiestaVal 2005 is almost here!

The party begins at noon on Saturday, May 21, at Fairmount School, 65 Chenery (at Randall), and goes till 5 p.m. All friends and neighbors are encouraged to stop by the school grounds to sample the food and the fun. There will be performances by the school's band and choir, along with dance shows by ballet folklórico and hip-hop dance groups.

As children check out the games and art booths, their parents can taste the delicious tamales and sweets made by Fairmount families, have their necks and shoulders massaged by a certified massage therapist, and check out the auction items that will be on display in the cafeteria.

The list of items includes gift certificates and special gifts donated by the Asian Art Museum, Cover to Cover Books, Kids Cuts, Noe Knit, Teatro ZinZanni, and restaurants such as Alma, Andalu, Liberty Café, Firefly, and Thirsty Bear. Items will be added to the web site, www.fairmountfiestaval.org, up until the last minute.

And in the weeks before the big event, if you're approached by students selling raffle tickets, be aware that your purchase could net you an iPod, a weekend in Monterey, or a certificate to one of many great local restaurants.

Funds raised at FiestaVal will go toward arts, P.E., and other enrichment programs.

A Boost from the Mayor's Office

Fairmount's after-school programs have received a grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development for \$27,000. The money will provide additional support for homework help, enrichment activities (music, art, dance, theater), and physical education.

The grant will be used for the 2005–06 school year.

We're Full Up for Kindergarten

As we near the end of this school year, Fairmount is looking ahead to next year and to meeting the new kindergarten families. All 60 seats filled up fast, and there's a long waiting list for our Spanish-immersion and English programs. For any questions about the school programs, please call the principal, Karling Aguilera-Fort, at 695-5669.

—Jan Ruiz

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Asawa's son, ceramicist Paul Lanier, is currently an artist-in-residence at Alvarado Elementary School, where the program originated.

Parents for Public Schools and *Spark*, the Bay Area arts program on KQED-TV, invite you to a special screening of a *Spark* episode about Ruth Asawa and the Alvarado Arts Program—a family legacy of art in the San Francisco public schools. You will be able to meet Asawa's talented adult children Paul Lanier and Aiko Cuneo, and see how they are continuing their mother's work. You will also get tips on how to build successful arts programs in the schools.

The event will take place on Wednesday, May 4, at McKinley Elementary School, 1025 14th Street at Castro, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Door prizes will be provided by *Spark*. For more information or to register for child care, call Parents for Public Schools at 468-7077 or visit www.ppsf.org or www.kqed.org/spark/education/outreach.jsp.

You can support existing programs by making donations online at www.donorschoose.org, where requests from Alvarado and other neighborhood schools are posted.

Behold the Youth Arts Festival!

More than 60 San Francisco arts organizations will be performing, exhibiting, and providing hands-on workshops for K-12 youth May 7 to 15 at the San Francisco Youth Arts Festival held downtown at Zeum and Yerba Buena Gardens. Throughout the festival, the rooftop museum and gardens, located at Fourth and Howard streets, will be filled with non-stop activities, events, student performances, hands-on art, art demonstrations, and entertainment. Over 8,000 children will actively participate or showcase their work in the 2005 Festival, representing 223 schools in San Francisco. All Youth Arts Festival events, performances, and exhibits are free to the public.

Boogie Night Is Your Reward

May 3: The PTA General Assembly meets at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

May 14: Our annual school carnival, "La Feria de Alvarado," will start at 11 a.m. and run throughout the afternoon in the schoolyard. There'll be art, food, and lots of fun!

May 19: Have dinner at Chevy's at Stonestown, 3251 20th Avenue, from 5 to 9 p.m., and help raise money for Alvarado. You can pick up a fundraising flyer at the school.

June 3: At last, it's Boogie Night at Il Pirata, 2007 16th Street at Potrero Avenue. Cost is \$10 per person (includes admission and appetizers), and teachers get in free at this grownups-only event.

How to Contact Us: Call the school at 695-5695 or visit the school's web site at www.alvaradoschool.net. The address is 625 Douglass Street at Alvarado. Chat with Principal David Weiner on the first Friday of each month from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Alvarado cafeteria.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

James Lick Middle School
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675
Janice Daniels, Principal

Alvarado Elementary School
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
David Weiner, Principal

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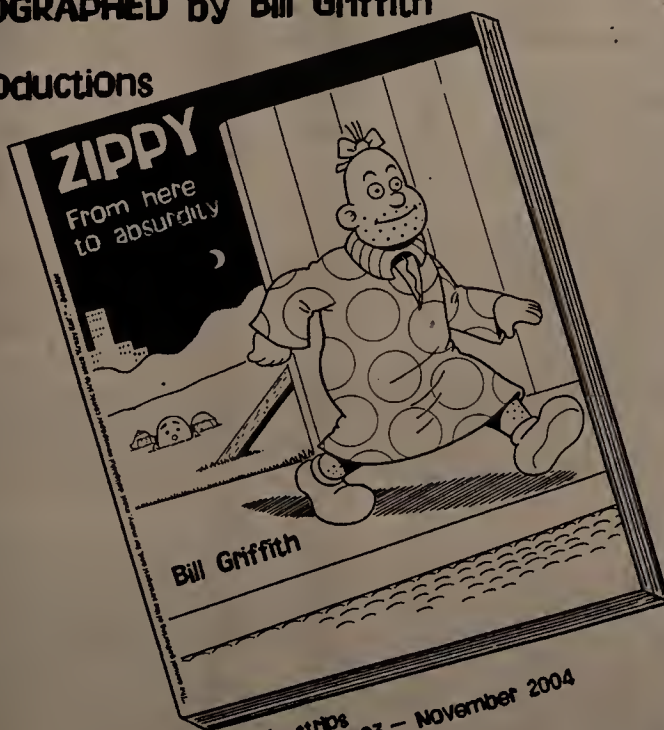
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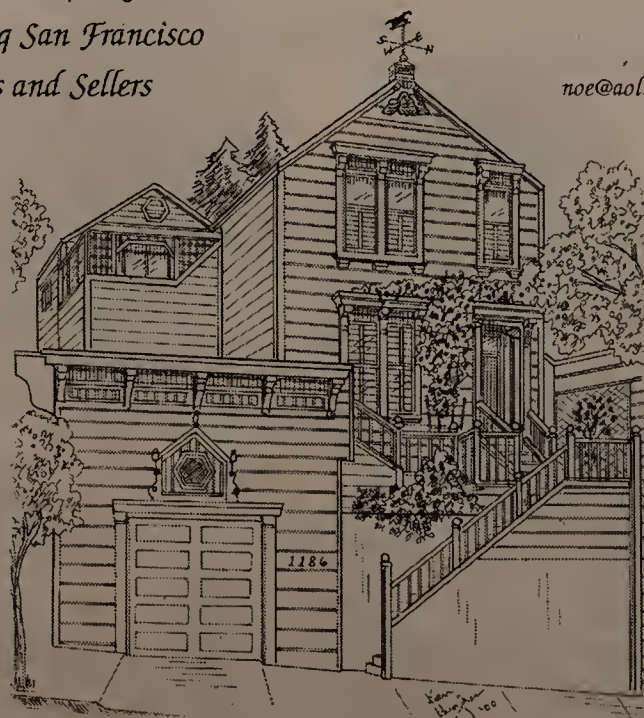
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BOOKS in our BRANCH

This month's book list, chosen by Noe Valley librarians Carol Small and Catherine Starr, and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske, features Shakespeare's fictional memoir, bistro cuisine for babies, and the first book of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. To find out which books are available at our branch, go to www.sfpl.org, call 355-5707, or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro Street. Besides books, the library offers magazines, newspapers, DVDs, music CDs, Internet access, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ In Bruce Cook's *Young Will: Confessions of William Shakespeare*, the 52-year-old playwright and poet looks back on "the sins of his youth" and his life in 1600s London.

◆ A young man returns to the hard luck and blood feuds of his poor rural Louisiana hometown, in *Welcome to the Fallen Paradise*, a first novel by Dayne Sherman.

◆ In Claire Davis' thriller *Season of the Snake*, a herpetologist faces the conflict between her difficult sister and her husband, who is living a double life.

◆ *The News from Paraguay* by Lily Tuck is based on the life of Ella Lynch, an Irish courtesan who became the mistress of Paraguayan dictator Francisco Solano Lopez ("Franco").

Adult Nonfiction

◆ In *The Secret Language of Children: How to Understand What Your Kids Are Really Saying*, Lawrence E. Shapiro stresses the importance of reading facial expressions, posture, and gestures.

◆ *Wired: A Romance* by Gary Wolf chronicles the rise of Louis Rossetto and Jane Metcalfe's magazine *Wired*, "the mouthpiece of the digital revolution," from its launch in San Francisco in the early 1990s to its fall in 2000.

◆ Joohee Muromcew's *The Baby Bistro Cookbook* features simple, upscale (but easy to follow) recipes to coax the toddler into eating lightly spiced solid foods.

◆ Forensic anthropologist Emily Craig describes her work at Waco and the World Trade Center in *Teasing Secrets from the Dead: My Investigations at America's Most Infamous Crime Scenes*.

New Children's Fiction

◆ His little brother lets the ducks out of Grandpa's yard and uses other people's stuff without asking, but author/illustrator David McPhail's big brother concedes that *My Little Brother* is sometimes "not so bad." *Ages 3 to 7.*

◆ Despite a warm long-distance relationship through phone calls and letters, little Albert is shy at first when he meets his grandmother in person, in Anna Grossnickle Hines' *My Grandma Is Coming to Town*, with soft watercolors by Melissa Sweet. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ The author/illustrator of *My Kindergarten*, Rosemary Wells, uses watercolors, music, and poetry to capture a young bunny rabbit's first year of school. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◆ Using color-infused collages, local author Bob Barner's *Bug Safari* explores the world of insects as an imaginative boy follows an ant trail. *Ages 4 to 8.*

◆ In *The Birthday Doll*, written by San Francisco author Jane Cutler and illustrated by Hiroe Nakata, Franny receives two very different dolls as gifts. *Ages 4 to 8.*

◆ Eddie apologizes for throwing up on Mrs. Hartwell's socks and Margaret praises the teacher for vaulting a rail "like a real track star" to save a stuffed buffalo, in *First Year Letters* by Julie Dannenberg, illustrated by Judy Love. *Ages 5 to 9.*

◆ In Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black's *The Field Guide (Spiderwick Chronicles Series #1)*, siblings Jared, Simon, and Mallory discover a secret room in their great-aunt's house. *Ages 8 and up.*

◆ Fourteen-year-old Shauzia lives in harsh conditions in Peshawar, Pakistan, but dreams of going to France, in *Mud City* by Deborah Ellis. *Ages 10 and up.*

LIBRARY EVENTS

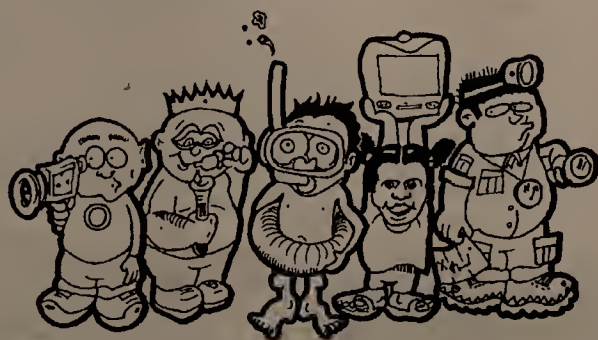
Saturday Lapsit

◆ Infants and toddlers, with a parent, will enjoy the stories, songs, and finger plays at the *lapsit* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 28. The library is at 451 Jersey Street near Castro.

Preschool Story Time and Films

◆ Children ages 2 to 5 are invited to attend a *preschool story time* at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, May 3, 10, and 21. An hour of short *films* will be shown for kids ages 3 to 5 on Tuesday, May 24, at 10 and 11 a.m.

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

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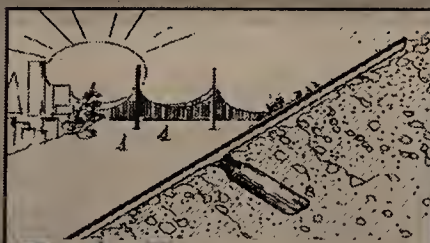
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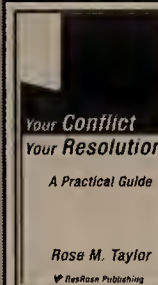


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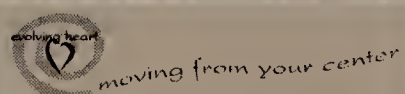
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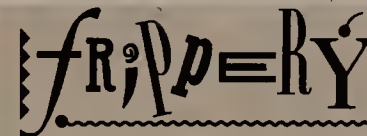
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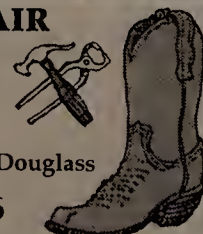
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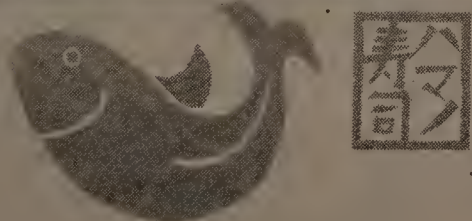
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The next *Voice* will be the June 2005 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before June 3. **The deadline for Class Ads is May 15.** The Class Ads will be printed in the paper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Who We Are And What We Want

By Mazook

PARKING ON THE BIAS: The Board of Supervisors took two minutes to approve a one-line resolution on April 26 that capped almost a decade of efforts by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association to install diagonal parking on Castro Street south of 24th Street. The resolution reads: "Establish diagonal (45-degree angle) parking [on] Castro Street, each side, between 25th and Jersey streets (six-month trial)."

Celebrating last month were former Association President Bob Roddick, current President Carol Yenne, and merchants Isa Muhawieh and Lisa Violetto (of Isa's Salon and Lisa Violetto Designs), who spearheaded the final push to get the proposal past the naysayers. The goal of the group is to see how angled parking goes on that block and then try to expand it to a couple more blocks on Castro Street.

"It's been nine years since we started this effort," says Roddick, an attorney whose office is located in the 1300 block of Castro. "I had just been elected to my first term as president of the Merchants and Professionals, and Gavin Newsom had just been appointed to the Board of Supervisors by the mayor. We presented them with a petition for diagonal parking signed by over 1,200 neighbors—and

Muni has fought us the whole way. Since then, we've produced two studies showing that diagonal parking is safe, and Isa produced a real-time video demonstration taken in the early morning hours on Castro that showed that diagonal parking in no way impeded Muni."

The net result, according to Roddick, will be a parking reconfiguration that will almost double the number of street parking spaces on Castro between Jersey and 25th. (*Read more about the deal in the March 2005 issue of the Voice, available online at www.noevalleyvoice.com.*)

So when will the six-month trial start? Says a hopeful Isa Muhawieh, "I estimate that it will finally be started in four to six weeks." That means look for stripes in June. And don't worry, the spaces won't have meters—during the trial at least.



THAT'S OIL THERE IS: At April's end, 24th Street pedestrians were surprised to read a sign posted in the window of Stonehouse California Olive Oil, on the corner of 24th and Sanchez. It announced that the store would be closing May 1 and that a new shop called Belgano would be moving in and selling Ciao Bella Gelato and other exotic edibles.

Stonehouse chief Trish Baldwin explains that the olive oil sales "just weren't there"—they weren't enough to sustain the store in Noe Valley.

"We needed to have more product lines in the store," she says, "so Randy Jensen, who was the founder of the Sweet Inspirations dessert cafés, is taking over our lease. He'll be starting up a new kind of café, which will feature Ciao Bella, Leonidas Chocolates, and Illy Coffee, which is served by many high-end restaurants. Randy has agreed to continue carrying our Stonehouse Olive Oil in bulk and several of our other olive oils in non-

refillable bottles. We are closing one year after we opened," Baldwin adds philosophically, "and finally, after one year of looking, I have found a place to live in Noe Valley [when we wrote about the opening last year, Trish was looking forward to moving to Noe Valley and walking to work], which I am very happy about. The new store will still carry our olive oils, so our loyal local customers won't have to travel down to our retail store in the Ferry Building."

Ah, there's nothing like a win-win situation.



A WIN-WHIMPER SITUATION: Shoppers also were concerned about the "Goodbye Girl, Goodbye Dog" sign on the window of the five-year-old A Girl and Her Dog (owned by Annette Hickey and her Yorkshire terrier Bronte) across the street. The store packed up what remained of its clothing and dog biscuits and vacated the spot at the end of April.

But the storefront won't be empty for long. The space will be reopened in about a month by the aforementioned Lisa Violetto and her business partner Judy Frangquist, who currently have a shop on Castro near Jersey (across from where the diagonal parking will soon appear).

"We are moving our retail store down [to A Girl and Her Dog] and will still maintain our space up here on Castro Street," says Frangquist, "where we will continue to do our designing and making our products."

Lisa Violetto Designs specializes in jewelry, handbags, scarves, pillows, and curtains, most of it handmade.

Frangquist says that she and Violetto are both very excited about the new space and will have access to the store during May. They hope to unveil the new shop around June 1.



ANOTHER DOUBLE VICTORY: The owner of Launderland, Dominic Maionchi, recently closed the suds shop and remodeled the building into two spaces. The new tenants say something about the demographics of our urban village: Muscles and Money.

The corner slot is claimed by Sterling Bank, and the inner track belongs to 24 Hour Fitness. The new mini-fitness center, Fit Lite, opens on May 2 and will offer a circuit-training program on 30 different pulling and stretching machines.

There was a bit of a stir amongst the locals last month when the 24 Hour Fitness sign went up on the corner, then was abruptly removed. Evidently, 24 Hour made a mistake and the corner sign will be split between the bank and the exercise emporium. The sign went up at the end of the month again, and you can see Fit Lite now occupies the lower half of the sign.

Sterling Bank is not scheduled to open its doors until July 1, according to the bank's general manager, Steve Adams, who is headquartered here in San Francisco. This will be the locally owned bank's 10th branch in the Bay Area.

"The job should be completed on time," says Adams. "We're going to a hearing without any opposition, and getting our conditional use permit was, thankfully, very easy. Now all we have to do is put some windows along the Church Street wall, complete the interior, and install the safe deposit boxes, which all of our customers want."

Adams came to San Francisco from Michigan in 1994, on an assignment to open a bank in San Francisco for a private group. He wound up staying and now lives in the Upper Market neighborhood.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

He currently sits on the board of directors of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro Association, and thinks it's important to support the local merchants and neighborhood associations. "I go to Noe Valley on a day-to-day basis, so I'm happy we're opening a branch in Noe Valley and can get involved in the neighborhood," Adams says.

One of the first things Sterling Bank did was join the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Not only did the bank pay its dues in advance, but it volunteered to be a sponsor for the Noe Valley Harvest Festival next October.

Adams will headquarter his residential lending department here in Noe Valley and plans to spend a lot of time chatting with the bank's new customers. "I got into banking by accident, and along the way I read the biography of A. P. Giannini, the founder of Bank of America. I learned that he never worked at the main office of his bank, but rather always at a branch so he would know what customers were thinking."

He says Sterling Bank supports the hiring local people, and 90 percent of his employees at seven San Francisco branches live in the city.

"Also, there is one thing I feel very strongly about—I want clean sidewalks!" he laughs. Works for me, too.



GOOD FOOD IN THE 'HOOD: America's largest grocery chain has been looking at its small store in Downtown Noe Valley very intently since the store makes more money per square foot than most of

the other Ralphs/Cala/Bell supermarkets owned by Kroger Corporation, based in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Over the past 18 months, Bell Market on 24th Street has changed and improved its product lines and produce, with a big push coming since the first of the year and a major facelift at the end of March.

Bell also accepted the invitation of the Friends of Noe Valley to appear at the Friends' April 14 general membership meeting. There were less than 40 of us who took the opportunity to hear Bell ring its bell, that is, listen to a presentation by Ralphs' West Coast director of marketing, Chris O'Leary.

O'Leary described the changes the store has made in response to the neighborhood's wishes, and showed a graphic display of who we are, what we want, and what they have done. The bottom line on that, as any regular Bell shopper knows, is that they are now stocking not only the items they want us to buy, but also the items we want to buy.

At the meeting, Ralphs sent in sample trays of new items from their deli, bakery, produce, and wine cellars. You really should have come—there was enough food for all of you.

If you have any suggestions for Bell, write them down and give your list to the store manager. They say they will consider all reasonable requests and emphasize that they've returned to their primary directive: The customer is always right.

Ironically, across the street from Bell, at the empty Real Food space, it seems as if the customer is always wrong. There's no evidence of any remodeling, by either the building owner or the lessee, Nutraceutical Corporation.



SHORT SHRIFTS: Rumors that Trends' old space at Church and Clipper has been

rented are not true, according to a representative of the Britton real estate company by the name of John ("no last name"). John says he's had many inquiries "from retail stores, gyms, child-care centers, and cafes, but it is not rented out yet."

Last month, the *Chronicle* reported that San Francisco Giants slugger Moises Alou had bought a house in Noe Valley and was moving his family here, so don't be surprised if you see him in the 'hood. You'll know it's him by his unique batting stance.

Radio Shack's 24th Street manager, Lang Wu, says that the remodel of the store has been completed. It took two months of work, and now they're going through a restocking process. "This is the nationwide new look of Radio Shack," says Wu. "It has a layout that is more customer-friendly, and it's much easier to test products."

Those of you who were looking for Latvian President Vaira Vike's motorcade to roll through Noe Valley on the way to the Latvian Church on April 9 were disappointed. She had to attend Pope John Paul II's funeral ceremonies. We will let you know when she reschedules.



IF YOU FOLLOW THE HORSES that follow the horses, then you'll be happy to know that Harry Aleo's racehorse, Lost in the Fog, won the Bay Shore Stakes at Aqueduct in New York on April 9, and paid \$2.30 on a two-dollar bet. The horse earned \$90,000 for the victory and has earned over \$360,000 by winning each of his first five races. Aleo, who owns Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street, is tickled pink, but not so irrationally exuberant as to run his 3-year-old colt in the Kentucky Derby. (See last month's Rumors.)

Lost in the Fog is now scheduled to

compete in the Golden Bear Breeders' Cup at Golden Gate Fields on Saturday, May 14. This is a six-furlong race that Fog should win, so take a trip out to the track and see why everyone's so excited.

By the way, Horsehats.com, which offers "official hats and merchandise for Lost in the Fog, the world's fastest horse," is selling a "Lost in the Fog" baseball cap (\$19.95). Any hats in the neighborhood?



THE END OF THE LINE is what they used to call the Upper Noe business district on Church Street between 29th and 30th before Muni extended the streetcar line. It's also the end of the line, owner Peter Kung has decided, for trying to rent out his storefront on the corner of Church and Day. In the 1940s, the storefront was one of the first Safeways; in the 1990s, it was the user-friendly Mikeytom Market.

"I have taken down the 'For Rent' sign and taken it off the rental market for now," says Kung. "At this point, I am seriously contemplating selling the property. I will entertain any reasonable offer. Just write your name and number, put it into an envelope, and drop it in the store's mail slot."



HOT FLASHES from Washington, D.C.: Our representative in Congress, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, e-mailed the *Voice* an Earth Day greeting and a warning. Pelosi wrote, "This week, the Republicans in the House of Representatives voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife [Refuge] to oil drilling. It is sheer folly to spoil this unique ecosystem for a six-month supply of oil. If this pristine environment is not special enough to save for our grandchildren, what is?"

That's what it is, folks. Good luck, dear earth. □

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415-431-6550 - 490 S. Van Ness (@ 16th St)

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415-863-3939 - 1401 Mission (@ 10th St.) / Accepts oil filters
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415-441-2000 - 10 S. Van Ness (@ Market)

Pacific Heights and Marina

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415-567-1136 - 2500 California St. (@ Steiner)
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415-922-7258 - 2030 Van Ness (@ Jackson)
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415-673-3441 - 1200 Larkin (@ Bush) / Accepts oil filters
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415-731-2733 - 1890 19th Ave. (@ Ortega)
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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230
E-mail: capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month (every other month—call to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Debra Niemann, 282-9918
E-mail: nemo@rcn.com
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7 p.m.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 205 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@aol.com.
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of the month, 1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices of other events, e-mail your first name, and your baby's first name and age, to noestrolls@aol.com or go to www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rafael Mandelman, 648-4010
Meetings: First Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Co-sponsor: Noe Valley Ministry
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 6 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 6:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Carol Yenne, 648-3954
Mailing Address: c/o Small Frys, 4066 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month, Bank of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contacts: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the route for a 5K run/walk in San Francisco.) For information, go to www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets, 7:30 p.m.

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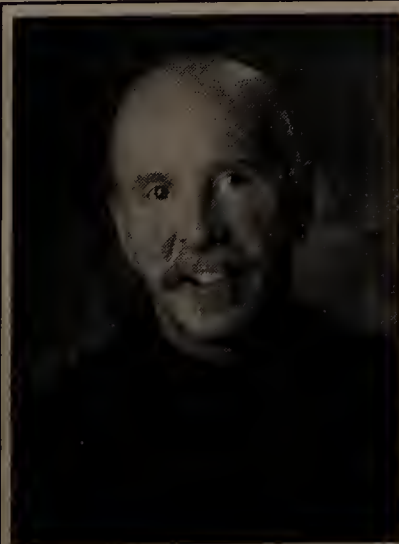
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



San Francisco writer Pamela Holm describes her first work of fiction, *The Night Garden*, to be released by MacAdam/Cage on May 17, as a story about

"that moment in between the time a person decides to make a change and when things actually do change. It can take five minutes or it can take five years," she says with a smile.

For the characters in her novel, self-transformation doesn't come easily. One of the main characters, Dawn, is a young single mother who has just left her boyfriend and is now living in a Potrero Hill home with her 9-year-old daughter, Jewel. Though she's a talented painter, Dawn spends her days working as a bug exterminator. As she struggles with the loneliness of being single, she begins to plant a garden in her new back yard, working at night because it's the only free time she has.

Holm, 43, knows her material well. Although she's never been an exterminator (her father, however, was a plumber, and Holm says her sensibilities are working-class), the San Jose native lived for many years on Potrero Hill, raising daughter Cara, 20, on her own. She now calls the Mission District home.

In 2002, Holm made a big splash with her first book, a nonfiction memoir titled *The Toaster Broke, So We're Getting Married* (also published by MacAdam/Cage). The book, described as "humorous and touching" by the *New York Times*, is a first-person account of Holm's wending path to husband Denzil Muiers, whom she married four years ago. It also doubles as a how-to (or how-not-to) book on planning a wedding.

During her 16 years in San Francisco, Holm has also written numerous personal essays, published in media ranging from the *San Francisco Chronicle* to *Violet* magazine to the online salon Freshyarn.com. When not talespinning herself, she teaches creative writing classes.

Currently, she's producing a musical play she's written called *Lovesick*, which will run the first three weekends in July at the Dark Room theater on Mission Street.

"I call it the cat allergy musical," she says. Further elucidation: It's about a lonely woman whose cat seems to thwart all the woman's efforts at meeting someone. For more information, go to Holm's web site, www.pamelaholm.com.

Holm will read and sign copies of *The Night Garden*, at Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro Street, on June 3 at 7 p.m. An excerpt is printed at right.

—Olivia Boler

The Night Garden

AN EXCERPT FROM THE NOVEL BY PAMELA HOLM

The morning traffic crept along, winding through the city like termites. As Dawn drove across town from her daughter's school in Pacific Heights to her first client in Noe Valley, she watched the styles transform. Like indigenous cultures where the weave of the cloth changes from village to village, signifying who belongs to which tribe, San Francisco residents exhibited a fashion solidarity that marked them as being from one neighborhood or the other.

Dawn drove past the women in Pacific Heights, clicking their way to the bus stop in pointy heels and ponchos. Through the Fillmore, where the boys looked like Ewoks in hooded sweatshirts and beltless jeans four sizes too large, held up by a fistful of denim as they walked liked they needed a diaper change. She drove down Divisadero until it crossed Market and turned into Castro, the queer mecca, where currency is measured in muscle mass. Dawn passed through the Mission, which hosted the unlikely combination of Latino gangland chic and lesbians camouflaged as 12-year-old boys.

It was easy to spot someone who had wandered out of their jurisdiction—like the tourists who'd escaped Fisherman's Wharf, the city's tourist containment area, standing on windblown street corners across the city wearing khaki shorts and sweatshirts they'd bought from street vendors when they realized their California destination was inhospitably freezing.

Swirling red and blue lights marked an accident on Dolores Street and offered an explanation for the knot of cars that had slowed to a crawl. As Dawn rolled past the chaos, she craned her neck to get a glimpse of someone having a worse day than she was. A car had run up onto the grassy median that divided the road and buckled against the trunk of one of the 30-foot palm trees that had lorded over the street for generations. An orange-haired woman leaned against a police car looking stunned and confused.

Dawn feared she had been wearing that same expression a lot these days. There was nothing particularly tragic about her life, but while others seemed to stay on the road toward their destination, she kept ending up sideways on the embankment, facing oncoming traffic, or leaning against the guardrail stunned and confused.

Life had always held an accidental quality for Dawn, unfolding in a series of surprises rather than plans coming to fruition. Breaking up with David was one her few measured decisions, but now, in the throes of her descent back to single life, the whole thing felt as accidental as any shipwreck she'd ever swum away from.

David was a large man, large in stature and attitude. He took up space, he filled rooms, he filled whole houses in the same way he filled his studio with paintings. David stood over six feet tall and could easily carry the extra 60 pounds that hugged his frame. He smoked, he drank. He spoke with a booming voice that annihilated conversations. David's convictions were immutable, bold, often

offensive, and he had no inclination to edit them or soften his delivery. Yet people were drawn to him, and in the light of their adoration he grew even larger.

During the course of their relationship, Dawn had watched her friendships, one after the next, suffer at the hands of David's blanket statements and brutish comments, until her world had been whittled down to a small collection of thick-skinned people who were taken by David's charisma and who now disapproved of her decision to leave him.

There had been no choice. Dawn had felt herself collapsing under David's weight for years. Her desires swallowed, dwarfed. Still, Dawn found it difficult to reconcile the fact that the man she loved was simply too much. She had a history of leaving men who weren't enough, but she had no reference point for leaving someone because they were too much.

Dawn's Acme Pest Control truck slowly rolled past the accident. She would be 10 minutes late for her first appointment, but hoped they wouldn't mind; people were generally forgiving when they found a tall woman with raven hair standing on their doorstep dressed in white and loaded down with poison.

A woman with salt-and-pepper hair that framed her face like a librarian led Dawn to the kitchen while complaining about the stench of mice. When Dawn opened the cabinet, a flurry of mice dashed in all directions. It was easy for her to imagine how her clients could have let things get to this point. She'd seen it over and over, people seduced into inaction by their intruders' twitchy noses and translucent ears, the soft gray down of their fur, and their slender flicking tails. It was easy to be lulled into passivity by their monumental cuteness, a survival technique Dawn suspected worked only in mouse-to-human contact. She'd grown up with the cartoons too, and could effortlessly spin elaborate tales about mice that use wooden thread spools for tables and sleep in tiny matchbox beds, and when humans aren't looking, they dress up in clothes and speak with French accents. People were hard-pressed to admit the small rodents were three-dimensional, let alone consider them a problem, until it was too late and the stench of mouse piss permeated the house. It was usually at this point that compassion failed them and the exterminator was summoned.

"You've got a few choices here," Dawn explained while closing the cabinet door. "The easiest would be to get a cat."

"I'm allergic to cats," the librarian answered flatly.

"Okay then, I can lay some sticky traps."

"How does that work?"

"They capture the mice," Dawn said. "Then we come back and exchange the traps for new ones." The 12-by-12-inch trays of glue, in which the mice became lodged, then dislocated their limbs, and eventually starved to death, were never worth fully explaining to clients. *Sticky traps* sounded much kinder.

"Or I can set out some poison. The

problem with poison is the mice tend to die just out of arm's reach, so the house might smell a bit gamy for a while."

The librarian squished up her nose like a rabbit.

"The most humane thing to do is set up a few have-a-heart traps. They catch the mice but don't kill them. Every day, you empty the trap outside and hope they don't find their way back in."

The woman listened intently and nodded.

"If we go with the humane plan, we need to find where the mice are getting in and seal it off. What's on the other side of this wall?" Dawn asked.

"The back yard."

"Let's take a look."

They stepped into the back yard, a beautifully manicured oasis of deep greens and browns. Dawn crouched down beneath the kitchen window and bent a tangle of weeds out of the way. "This looks like it," Dawn said, pointing to a gap between the sidewall and the foundation. She pulled some steel wool from her pocket and shoved it into the small hole. The back of Dawn's hand brushed against something prickly. "Ouch." She yanked her hand away quickly and rubbed it as white mounds erupted on her skin.

"Stinging nettles," the librarian said. "It's a tenacious weed, and hard to get rid of because the consequences of getting near it are so unpleasant." She bent down and sifted through the weeds. "But nature is very kind," she said, plucking a fuzzy leaf off its stem and rubbing it across the welts on Dawn's hand. "She never gives you a problem without leaving a solution close at hand."

"That's encouraging," Dawn said, watching the hives retreat. She looked around the yard. Everything was lush and tidy, a deep green fortress hidden from the city traffic, which whooshed by beyond the fence. Pink flowers clung like corsages to the waxy leaves of a tree. Brilliant ground cover grew in a soft bed around silvery bushes. A path meandered toward the corner of the yard, where a waterfall trickled down stones and into a pond. Dawn thought of her own yard and started to form the vaguest vision of how to tame the unruly mess. "Your yard is beautiful," Dawn said, walking toward the flowering tree.

"What's this?" Dawn pointed to a low tree loaded with drooping trumpets the color of butter.

"That's called *brugmansia*, or angel trumpet; the flowers are very poisonous. In Haiti they use them to turn people into zombies."

"Really?" Dawn tipped a flower so she could see inside.

"They're pollinated by bats."

Dawn let go of the blossom quickly, as if she'd had a bat's wing in her hand. "I thought prettier things did that work."

"In the daytime they do, but nighttime plants are the domain of bats and moths."

"My garden's such a mess I doubt that even bats and moths would have anything to do with it. I wouldn't know where to start."

"You get yourself a pair of leather gloves and go at it a little at a time," the librarian advised. "I did most of this while my husband was in chemotherapy."

"Is he all right?"

"No, he didn't make it. But I did," she said with a mix of sadness and triumph.

Dawn wrote out an invoice and left with a gardening catalog tucked into her bag.

The Night Garden
by Pamela Holm.
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San Francisco.

